



# THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 30 October 1997 (IR50p) 45p No 3,441

## Lost souls of the Algerian night: now their torturers tell the truth



Amina Beuslimane - 13/12/94. Mother told she is dead.



Naima Boughaba - 12/4/94. Fate unknown.



Nejoua Boughaba - 12/4/94. Fate unknown.



Seida Kheroubi - 7/5/97. Feet crushed in interrogation.

## Mind control? TV rental for prisoners

A large number of British prisoners are to have colour televisions in their cells. The move, writes Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, has provoked accusations that the authorities are trying to control and sedate the minds of criminals.

able to control the times inmates can watch television, but most are expected to leave viewing to the inmates. The televisions are also expected to have an "in-prison" channel for information and education.

Mark Freeman, assistant general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association, which has met prison officials to discuss the issue, said that about 5,000 sets were expected in the first batch. "We have a suspicion that the Prison Department will put televisions in cells and cut staff," he said. "TV's will just be used as a control measure. We would only want them to be made available for prisoners on enhanced regimes [inmates who have earned special privileges]."

"They would only have the five terrestrial channels, we are not talking about providing Sky TV and the Playboy channel."

At present, there are about 2,500 televisions in 20 jails in England and Wales, although the sets are only widely available at six prisons.

John Greenway, the shadow prisons minister, said: "If the Prison Service has some spare cash then they should spend it on providing meaningful activity and training out of cells. I fear televisions are being used to manage the overcrowding problem."

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said: "It is a sound idea providing it does not lead to a reduction in education and training."

The Learmont report, produced after the 1995 Parkhurst Prison escape, recommended televisions as a "calming influence and a powerful incentive to good conduct".

Up to 20,000 inmates are to be given unlimited access to colour televisions in their cells in an attempt to ease the problems caused by prison overcrowding.

In about a month, manufacturers are expected to be asked to tender bids to supply thousands of television sets to the Prison Service.

Prisoners will be allowed to use weekly wages earned in the jails to rent the sets. They will be given to offenders as a reward for good behaviour and removed as a punishment.

Ministers have yet to agree details, but they have agreed to the principle of allowing televisions in all 135 jails in England and Wales.

The decision was attacked yesterday by the Tory party and prison officers who fear in-cell televisions will replace education and training.

But prison officials believe televisions are an effective and cheap way of easing tension and providing inmates with entertainment and education at a time when many are being locked up in their cells for longer periods. With the jail population having passed the record 63,000, more offenders are having to share cells designed for one. Prison governors will be

### INSIDE TODAY

#### THE EYE

Lara Croft: The most exciting woman in the world

### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Nanny left waiting

Tension was running high in the Boston courtroom where Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of murdering a child in her care, was waiting to hear her fate. The jury of nine women and three men had gone out for a second day of deliberation after spending the night in a hotel. Page 3

#### SEEN & HEARD

The image of the doughty librarian peering frostily over the top of her spectacles and tutting was obviously too much for one man who discovered two books 23 years overdue. He returned them to Learnington Spa library with a cheque for £380 to cover the fine. Staff at the library have used the money to buy new books.

The Independent has obtained evidence that thousands of men and women have been "disappeared" by police agents of the military-backed regime in Algeria. And for the first time, members of the Algerian security forces - now seeking asylum in Britain - have given fearful testimony of mass torture by government agents, murder in Algerian police stations and secret burials by the security forces.

We all knew it was happening in Algeria. For more than four years, released prisoners had told us of water torture and beatings, of suffocation with rags, of how their nails were ripped out by interrogators, of how women were gang-raped by policemen, of secret executions in police stations. But never before have members of the security forces provided the compelling evidence to prove the brutality of the Algerian regime. And with documentary testimony that thousands - some say as many as 12,000 - men and women have been "disappeared" by a government that claims to be fighting "international terrorism", Algeria's military-backed government will find it hard ever again to win sympathy in the West.

A police officer who was in charge of the Algiers' city police armory has described to *The Independent* how his colleagues killed prisoners in cold blood, how police torturers suffocated prisoners with acid-soaked rags after tearing out their nails and raping them with bottles. A 30-year-old Algerian policewoman has told of how she watched prisoners - at the rate of 12 a day - tied half-naked to ladders in the Cavignac police station in Algiers while, screaming and pleading for mercy, salt water was pumped into their stomachs until they agreed, blindfolded, to sign confessions.

The same policewoman admitted to signing false death certificates to prove that dead prisoners had been "found" decomposing in the forests south of Algiers. A 23-year-old army conscript spoke of watching officers torture suspected "Islamist" prisoners by boring holes in their legs - and in one case, stomach - with electric drills in a dungeon called the "killing room". And

he claimed that he found a false beard amid the clothing of soldiers who had returned from a raid on a village where 28 civilians were later found beheaded; the soldier suspects that his comrades had dressed up as Muslim rebels to carry out the atrocity.

No guerrilla war is clean. No army or police force fighting ruthless insurgents will maintain its honour unscathed. And the so-called Islamic Armed Group (GIA) in Algeria, which has carved a unique and dreadful reputation for itself as the most savage guerrilla army on earth, can expect little mercy at the hands of its government opponents. GIA men - or those claiming to be its members - have attacked Algerian villages for more than a year, cutting the throats of women and children, burning babies alive in ovens, disembowelling pregnant women and slaughtering old men with axes. They have even employed

extremism - of old men and, in one case, a paraplegic in a wheelchair. A 28-year-old woman called Amina Benslimane, who was arrested almost three years ago by security police, is believed to have died under torture at the Chateaufort police station in Algiers. The relatives of another woman have been told that the bones of one of her feet were broken while she was being interrogated about her brother who is a suspected member of an opposition group.

Confidential evidence from another Algerian lawyer states that a young newly married woman was raped in front of her husband to force him to reveal details of an Islamist group to which it was alleged he belonged. In the past, released prisoners have told of the gang-rape of women prisoners - in one case the rape of a grandmother who was dragged from a torture room covered in blood. Most of the torture in Algiers is carried out in two police commissariats, at Chateaufort and at Cavignac.

These two torture centres exert terror over the population of Algiers where - on the evidence of two women whose loved ones have been arrested, never to be seen again - men and women are now taken from their homes without arrest warrants or the production of identification papers by the security forces. "You cannot compare 'excesses' with putting babies in ovens," a government official told *The Independent* in Algiers last week. The frightful reality, however, is that the two sides are now competing in cruelty.

Inspector Abdessalam, who was in charge of police ordinance at the Dar al-Baida police station near Algiers international airport, has described how he watched as suspected "Islamists" were interrogated by torturers - some of whose names have been given to *The Independent*.

"Sometimes... prisoners were forced to drink acid or a cloth was tied to their mouths and acid poured over it," he said. "Prisoners were forced to stand next to tables with their testicles on the table and their testicles would be beaten... A small number of the prisoners gave information. Some preferred to be killed. Some died under water torture." Similar testimony came from a female detective called Dalilah who saw two men die strapped to a ladder in the Cavignac police station when their stomachs burst after salt water was pumped into them. Algeria's terror, pages 8 and 9

### EXCLUSIVE BY ROBERT FISK

a mobile guillotine on the back of a truck to execute their enemies.

But evidence that the massacred villagers were themselves Islamists, and increasing proof that the Algerian security forces remained - at best - incapable of coming to their rescue, has cast grave doubt on the government's role in Algeria's dirty war.

Indeed, repeated claims that the slaughtered villagers were "accomplices" of the GIA has raised suspicions that the Algerian regime, which seeks European support in its war against armed opponents, may have had a hand in provoking the slaughter. But the first-hand evidence from its own former security force personnel of torture and secret executions provides unequivocal testimony that the Algerian government has gone beyond the pale of civilised standards of warfare in fighting its enemies.

Among the names of "disappeared" men and women given to *The Independent* by an Algerian lawyer are those of young women uninvolved in politics - let alone religious

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TELEVISION The Eye, page 12  
CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9

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## COLUMN ONE

### Blair's empty gesture may herald era of full houses

As it announced the opening of Admiralty Arch to down-and-outs this Christmas the Government said it hoped the move would prompt private owners of large empty properties to offer them as places of refuge for the homeless.

The politicians, could, of course, lead the way. During the summer recess the Commons and the Lords are mainly empty, yet a mile away there are people sleeping rough. Peter Kilfoyle, the public-services minister who handled the Arch initiative, may well want to pursue this option with his colleagues. He will also find it fruitful to talk to Tony Blair about Chequers, which is unused for long stretches. What better way, the Prime Minister may feel, of introducing those suffering from inner-city deprivation to the pleasures of country life?

As in so many other things to do with this government, Peter Mandelson will undoubtedly wish to play a part. There have been many suggestions about what should go into the Millennium Dome, but no one, as yet, appeared to have considered the possibility that it can be a refuge as we move into the next century.

It would be unfair to leave the Conservatives out of this. They too should be allowed to show they are caring and sharing. After the election meltdown, cash-strapped Central Office carried out a cull of more than 50 officials at Smith Square and there is now said to be plenty of unoccupied space. Although the whole building cannot be given over to those in need, there could well be a way to allocate a part of it. Such an initiative would help William Hague show the Tories are once again a One Nation party after the excesses of Thatcherism.

If the politicians act, the Royal Family, in its current mood of offering greater accessibility, is likely to feel that it too ought to make a gesture. There is great scope: the Queen will need Balmoral during summer, but it is free the rest of the year. Indeed, while the royals are trekking up to Scotland, the down-and-outs can make a journey in reverse to the palaces of Buckingham, Windsor and Kensington. The Royal Yacht *Britannia*, now on its valedictory voyage around the country, may yet be saved from the scrapheap, with a new life as a floating shelter.

Sporting bodies too can play a part. The MCC, for example, has the image of being stuffy and snobbish. It can counter this by making good use of Lords during the winter. Perhaps a dome of some sort can be built to protect those sheltering from the elements. Gordon Brown's spin-doctor, Charles Whelan, is said to be a MCC member, and someone with his can-do attitude would be ideal to get such a project off the ground. Back in the real world, charities have, on the whole, welcomed Mr Kilfoyle's initiative. But people in the field also point out that the chances of a raft of buildings suddenly being made available as refuges is extremely slim, and at the end of the day dramatic gestures, however headline-grabbing, are no substitute for long-term solutions.

— Kim Sengupta

## PEOPLE



Vera Lynn, the Forces' Sweetheart, joined the Spice Girls yesterday to launch this year's Poppy Appeal at the Albert Hall, London. They each read a line from Laurence Binyon's poem *The Poem*. Photograph: Reuters

### Net closes in on Great Train robber Biggs

The law may have finally caught up with the Great Train robber Ronnie Biggs after 32 years. The man who claimed he would never be put behind bars could be eating his words after Britain yesterday made him the first target of a new extradition treaty with Brazil.

An attempt to bring him back from South America in 1974 ended in failure and embarrassment because of the absence of such an agreement but it is hoped this latest deal will ensure his capture and appearance before the courts within a year.

Biggs said yesterday: "I'm a positive thinker and I'd rather imagine I'm not going back to jail. The law is the law and I did escape from a prison sentence. I think it must be a natural chain of events, now that the extradition treaty exists, for the British government to seek my return to jail."

He escaped from Wandsworth Prison in 1965 after serving 15 months of a 30-year sentence for his part in taking £2.6m from a Glasgow-to-London mail train. He fled to Brazil via Australia in 1970 when the country had no extradition treaty with the UK and had plastic surgery in a vain attempt to prevent police tracking him. When arrested by Scotland Yard

detective Jack Slipper he argued against extradition on the basis that he had a Brazilian dependent, his son Michael, by his girlfriend Raimunda.

Yesterday Mr Slipper said Biggs, now 68, should be left alone, because he did not look in good shape, would probably be a drain on the NHS and would want to draw a pension.

But Britain and Brazil ratified a treaty in August which closed the legal loophole that has allowed Biggs to live the high life in Rio de Janeiro for the past 27 years and the new arrangement is retroactive for offences committed before the date of its coming into force. If successful, Biggs could face nearly 29 years behind bars, although the actual sentence is likely to be reduced because of his age and the time which has elapsed since his escape.

However, lawyers for Biggs are expected to appeal on the Brazilian statutes of limitation, which annuls punishment if a criminal succeeds in avoiding the authorities for more than 15 years. They may also claim that the same crime, committed in Brazil, would have resulted in a lesser sentence.

— Amanda Kelly

## UPDATE

### TECHNOLOGY

#### Trek's 'phaser' comes into focus

It's a phaser, Jim, but rather bigger than we know it. A Californian has patented a device which acts like the "phaser" of *Star Trek* fame - able to disable or even kill at a distance with a beam of light. But it is slightly larger than the sidearm carried by Captain Kirk and Mr Spock: the pre-laser version would be larger than a kitchen table. However, given the way lasers have shrunk, the real phaser may not be too far away.

Hans Eric Herr, from San Diego, has been granted a patent on a device which uses a laser to generate ultra-violet light that creates a path of ionised air along which an electric current is sent. Depending on its size, it can cause muscle contractions, stun a victim, or kill by inducing a heart attack.

It resembles the "taser" used by US police, which fires darts attached to wires; a current sent through the wires causes the victim's muscles to contract and briefly paralysed them. Mr Herr's invention has a greater range, of more than 100m, and its beams can penetrate clothing. But it needs an argon-fluoride laser as big as a kitchen table, *New Scientist* magazine reports.

However, that should not be viewed as an overwhelming obstacle. Anthony Bell, an expert on laser-produced plasmas at Imperial College, London, said: "There's nothing here that I would completely rule out. The amount of energy required is not that large, and you don't need a laser that takes up a whole warehouse."

Charles Arthur, Science Editor

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### Call for shake-up of watchdogs

A shake-up of utility watchdogs is needed if consumers are to reap the full benefits of privatisation, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Although most bills have fallen since the utilities were privatised, water charges have shot up 39 per cent, while shareholders have pocketed soaring dividend payments, it claims in a report.

The independent body said even bills which have fallen could have dropped faster and further. It is calling for tougher and more transparent regulation to ensure better protection for consumers. The study concludes that overall standards of service have improved and costs have fallen for customers in the electricity, gas, water and telecoms industries. However, price cuts have not affected all consumers equally, with huge variations in bills emerging across the country and in different sectors. In the gas industry, household bills have fallen by around 24 per cent since 1986, while business bills have dropped up to twice as much - up to 54 per cent.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### When illness can be a cure

Illness could improve the quality of life for some people, a university health researcher claimed yesterday. Most of those who took part in the survey on whether illness could bring benefits felt it had improved their life situation. "Several participants declared their illness had improved their life by 100 per cent," said Samantha Sodergren, of Plymouth University's quality of life research centre.

The survey included people aged 20 to 81, with illnesses including cancer and depression. "Some people said it had been the making of their marriage because it brought them closer to their partner," said Ms Sodergren. Those who felt there were benefits said illness gave them time to take stock and gave them a greater appreciation of others. But she added that not everyone suffering an illness would feel that way.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Working week gets longer

Few British firms are cutting the working week for their staff - and hours are increasing for some groups of employees, according to a report yesterday. Fewer than 2 per cent of 500 organisations polled have reduced the number of working hours this year, it found.

In some cases, hours increased to harmonise conditions with other staff groups, according to the report by research group Incomes Data Services. "At a time when the French and Italian governments are pressing employers to move to a 35-hour week, there are no signs that British employers intend to follow the example of their continental counterparts," said the report. The survey found a 39-hour week was still worked by most manual employees, compared to as few as 35 hours for non-manual staff. Both groups usually have 25 days' holiday after one year's service, although many are given extra leave the longer they stay with a company.

### SOCIAL TRENDS

#### The life of loners

Record numbers of people are choosing to live alone, according to research published yesterday. About 5.3 million people live on their own in Britain today, representing more than a quarter of all households. This is up from the 18 per cent recorded 20 years ago - and the number is still growing.

Researchers said the trend had been fuelled by a combination of rising numbers of single and divorced people and the growing number of people, in particular single men and divorced women, staying alone. The findings follow a two-year study into living trends in the UK and France, which has seen a similar leap in the number of lone householders. Dr Ray Hall, who carried out the study with Professor Philip Ogden at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, said: "Our research shows that more young people are actively choosing to live alone. Although one-person households have traditionally been associated with the elderly, there are increasing numbers of people under 40 who are opting to live alone. This is especially true amongst professional and managerial classes, possibly because job mobility is important to them."

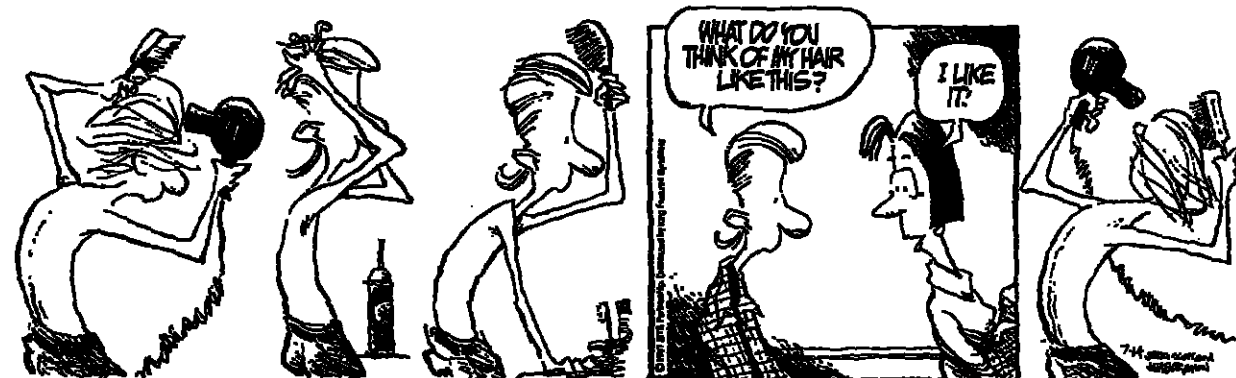
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### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.27	Italy (lira)	2,769
Austria (schillings)	19.76	Japan (yen)	198.27
Belgium (francs)	58.05	Malta (lira)	0.62
Canada (\$)	2.27	Netherlands (guilders)	3.17
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Norway (kroner)	11.46
Denmark (kroner)	10.78	Portugal (escudos)	285.17
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Greece (drachme)	447.84	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
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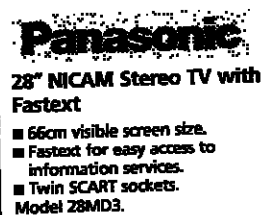


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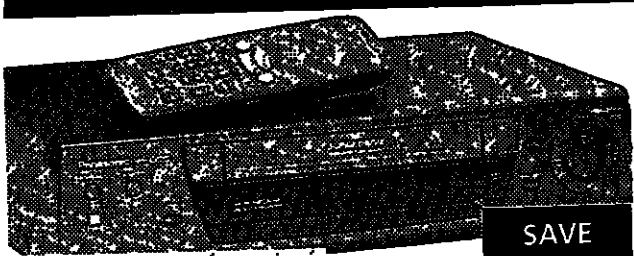
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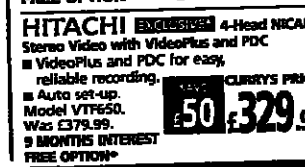


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هذا من الاصل



## Serious outbreak of fetish fever as rubber becomes cool

Fetish wear: rubber, leather, lace, chains and spikes have inspired fashion designers and spiced up the catwalk. Now as thousands of clubbers attend fetish parties every month, Paul McCann looks at an underground scene that is becoming increasingly mainstream.

Hammersmith and Fulham Council dealt a minor blow to the booming world of fetish parties this week when it turned down an application for a music and dancing licence from the promoters of The Erotic Ball.

Wambam, a promotions company run by the aristocratic heir to the Knobworth estate, Henry Cobbold, wanted to host a "strict dress code" party at Olympia, the exhibition centre in west London, at the end of next month.

Despite the set-back, the scale of the promoter's ambitions illustrates the popularity of the London fetish scene.

With 8,000 clubbers dancing in three rooms it would have been the biggest legal indoor

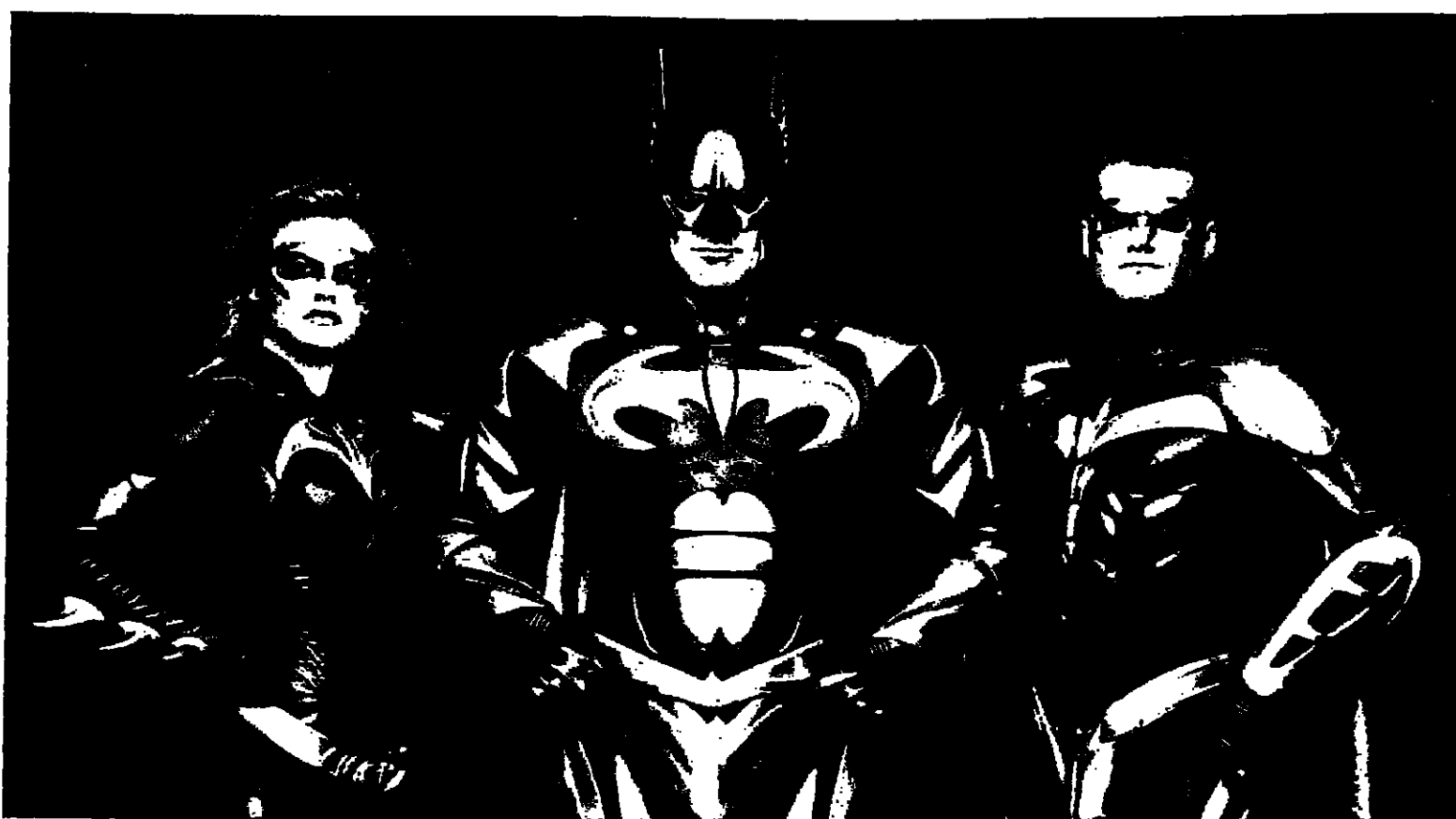
party in central London. Takings for the night were expected to be more than £300,000 and star-name DJs, such as Judge Jules and Tony De Vit, had been signed up to play.

But fetishists need not throw out their rubber frocks. The annual Rubber Ball celebrates its fifth birthday next week at the Hammersmith Palais when 3,000 people will squeak the night away for the CruseAids charity.

Fetish parties are no longer special annual events. Each month three to four thousand Londoners dress up for evenings in club venues such as the Ministry of Sound and The Complex. The biggest regular fetish nights in London are Submission and the Torture Garden.

"If you had told me five years ago that there would be a regular fetish club night in Weston-super-Mare I would have said you were crackers," said Tim Woodward, editor of the fetish magazine *Skin Two*. "Now there are clubs in Kidderminster and Colchester as well as the major cities and four or five nights a month in London."

The weekend of the Rubber Ball is the biggest S&M fetish event in the world. It is something Britain can be



Stripping for action: Cartoon fantasy heroes such as Batman are often used as role models for fetish party-goers  
Photograph: Reuters

he said. But he added people on the scene don't take themselves too seriously.

"You don't have to have read the entire works of the Marquis De Sade," he said.

"There's quite a big element of Carry On movies and St Trinians about the entire scene which I welcome."

There are varying degrees of explicit behaviour and dressing at the fetish parties in London. All of them insist that people dress the part, mainly to keep out groups of single men looking for a free ogle.

But other parties, where the acts are more explicit and some of the party-goers are reportedly well-known public figures, are members only.

In the more public events it is all about "looking not touching", says Francesca Malan, a rubber devotee who has been to numerous fetish parties.

"People may think we're just sick exhibitionists, but really it is about the safest sex of all - mental stimulation."

proud of. London will be full of pervers this weekend."

So big is the event that it even has its own crafts market, or fetish fare, where people sell

home made implements.

"The fetish world has stayed underground for a long time," says Anna Stokes of the Erotic Ball's promoters Wambam.

"But there is a growing need for people to be able to go somewhere and live out their escapist fantasies. It works as a kind of sexual counselling

evening. Unless you take off your suit and get into disguise you can't act out this stuff."

Mr Woodward believes the growth in fetish parties has

come from a post-Aids aesthetic of sex.

"It's not enough just to have sex anymore. You want to look. You want to experiment."

## Smokers are more pessimistic people

Far from closing their eyes to the chance of getting lung cancer, smokers are risk-takers who actually overestimate their chances of succumbing, says a report.

Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, says this has important implications for anti-smoking education campaigns.

Smokers are more pessimistic about the health risks they run by lighting up and overestimate their risks of contracting lung cancer or heart disease. They are also more likely to think they could be run over or murdered compared with their non-smoking peers.

Usually when asked to assess the risk of something happening to them, people think it is more likely to happen to someone else and it has been thought that smokers ignore the health risks they run.

However, a survey in Britain and Norway by the Economic and Social Research Council found that, on average, smokers rate their personal lifetime risk of getting lung cancer to be 41 per cent and the chance of

developing heart disease to be 47 per cent.

Data from studies in Canada suggests that 17 per cent of male smokers and 11 per cent of female smokers will eventually develop lung cancer.

The survey of more than 8,000 respondents found that smokers also tend to overestimate the cigarette consumption of the average smoker - 15 cigarettes a day.

Light smokers thought the average consumption was around 21 cigarettes a day whereas heavy smokers put the average at 23 per day.

Smokers gave significantly higher estimates than ex-smokers and complete non-smokers for the dangers they face in life - from being the victim of a murder to being killed on the roads - suggesting that smokers appear to regard life as more dangerous with a greater risk of traumatic death.

However, for the risk of being killed by smoking the estimates were remarkably similar, suggesting that smokers are less knowledgeable about the risks than non-smokers or that non-smokers tend to exaggerate the risks to smokers.

"There is no evidence that smokers tend to deny the health risks of smoking or are less knowledgeable about the risks than non-smokers or that non-smokers tend to exaggerate the

risks relative to smokers," said Dr Stephen Sutton, of University College London, who carried out the research.

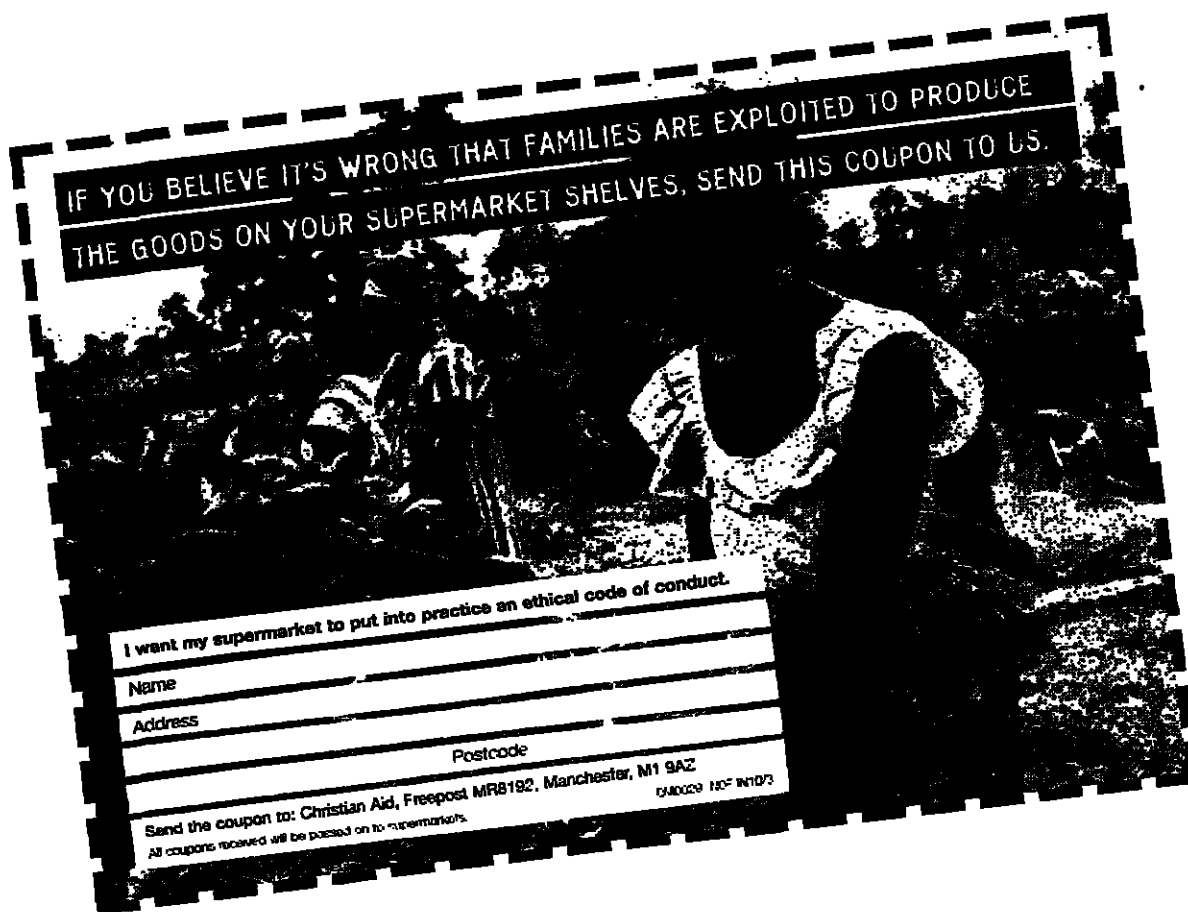
Older smokers and lighter smokers were more optimistic about the health risks, but there were no class differences in perceptions of risk and few important sex differences. Not only do men and women have a similar smoking prevalence but those who do smoke have similar perceptions of the personal health risks.

Taken overall, says Dr Sutton, the findings have important implications for smoking education campaigns. He finds no evidence that would support targeting women rather than men or particular classes. But he does suggest that providing accurate information about the cigarette consumption of the average smoker might influence smokers' risk judgements.

One other unusual finding that was thrown up by the survey was that while people in general think they are less likely to be mugged or have a serious road accident than other people, they are sufficiently realistic about other things.

Despite persuasive advertising for the National Lottery people do not generally think it could be them - they think other people are more likely to win a large sum of money on the lottery or pools than they are.

## What can you do about the exploitation of Third World families?



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## Unpaid overtime is curse of professional classes

Unpaid overtime has become the curse of the professional classes with people now working as much unpaid overtime as paid overtime, according to a survey.

More than one in five workers say they work extra hours for no money every week. Among managers the proportion rises to more than half. An eighth of these managers say they are working at least 13 hours a week unpaid.

Britain has been criticised for its long working week compared with other European countries. Professor Bob Hart of the University of Stirling, who carried out the research for the Economic and Social Research Council, said the reality "may be twice as bad as we thought" as this comparison only took account of paid work.

"Based on our sample of 20,000 male and female employees from the Labour Force Survey it seems that the quantitative importance of unpaid overtime is on a par with paid overtime," he added.

Professor Hart said that while the average wage may be

£7.28 an hour, when the amount of unpaid overtime is accounted for wages drop to £6.78 an hour. Workers average 1.4 unpaid hours a week in comparison with 1.6 paid overtime hours.

A female graduate earned on average £5.30 an hour for her paid work. But when the amount of unpaid work was factored in her wages dropped to £4.77 - 10 per cent less.

Professor Hart found there was no improvement over time - if anything the reverse was true.

After 20 years her average wage would be £10.74 an hour but when unpaid hours were taken into account it worked out as £9.17 - 14 per cent less.

The situation was slightly better for men, who started on a wage of £5.70. This was reduced to £5.20 when unpaid hours were taken into account (an 8.8 per cent difference), reaching £13 an hour after 20 years, which was worked out as being worth £11.30 after unpaid work was taken into account, a reduction of 13 per cent.

The professor said he started the research after being surprised by the number of overtime hours uncovered when he was researching how many people had second jobs.

The burden falls mainly on the managerial and professional classes, where 51 per cent say they work unpaid hours compared with only 9 per cent who get paid.

The reverse was true for plant and machine operatives, only 4 per cent of whom work unpaid overtime compared with nearly half who are paid for extra hours.

The implications of the findings, said Professor Hart, concerns the effect of unpaid work on pay differentials.

"If hourly wages are adjusted to allow for unpaid work then this serves to reduce significantly the estimated returns of education, work experience and tenure," he said. "These findings are very much an 'unexpected outcome' of our work on multiple job holding and open up a major new area of market interest."

— Glenda Cooper

## Doubt cast on red meat link with cancer

Last month, the Government issued an unprecedented warning to cut down on consumption of red meat. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines claims yesterday that European studies of health and diet show no evidence of a link between eating red meat and cancer.

The reason for the apparent difference between the Government's warning and yesterday's announcement may be the high general intake of fruit and vegetables in Europe, according to the study.

Previous data from America and Australasia had indicated that red meat consumption increased the risk of colon cancer, and last month Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, issued an official warning that too much red meat could be dangerous. At the same time, a report from the World Cancer Research Fund, called for similar dietary changes. It said 100,000 cases of cancer in the UK could be prevented each year by changes in diet.

People who ate average amounts of meat — eight to 10 portions a week, or 90 grams a day — were advised to rein back, while those who ate 12 to 14 portions a week were urged to cut their consumption. The recommendations were based on the findings of a preliminary report from the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (Coma).

But Dr Michele Sadler, senior nutri-

tionist at the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) — a scientific charity whose members include food companies and the Meat and Livestock Commission — questioned the premise that eating less red meat reduced the risk of cancer.

At a seminar organised by the foundation, research was presented saying that nine major studies conducted in Europe failed to reveal any link between red meat and an increased risk of colon cancer. "Red meat intake has been falling in the UK over the past three decades and colon cancer rates have been rising," said Dr Sadler.

"It is not clear from the current evidence that lowering average red meat intake will reduce colon cancer. However, high meat consumers are advised to cut down ...

"The main emphasis must be that we must eat more fruit and vegetables," Dr Michael Hill, chairman of the European Cancer Prevention Organisation, said. "Greece and other Mediterranean countries have a high intake of fruit and vegetables and this appears to offset any effect from a high intake of red meat."

Earlier this month, researchers from Cambridge University's Institute of Public Health reported — after monitoring the health of 3,500 people — that there was "no evidence that frequent consumption of meat is a risk factor for cancer".

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said "Obviously we are interested to hear the BNF's interpretation of the scientific evidence. Someone from Coma secretariat attended the meeting and listened carefully to the arguments."



Colour Sergeant John Dent inspecting potential recruits at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks at Strensall, near York, yesterday. The Army is trying to boost its ranks and is holding a recruitment drive among homeless people. These four on parade were among a bus-load of homeless people from Leeds, taken to see Army life at first hand.

The "Look at Life Day" allowed people aged between 17 and 26 to try out assault courses, a parachute training tower and talk to soldiers serving with the Parachute Regiment.

But officials were quick to dispel ideas that the Army was taking desperate measures to make up a shortfall of 4,000 soldiers. A Ministry of Defence

spokesman said: "We are not recruiting dossiers and wins from cardboard city. We are exploring avenues where there are potential recruits."

Officers from the Leeds Armed Forces Career Office visited hostels and homelessness schemes in the city to invite youngsters to consider joining up.

Photograph: Steve Forrest/Gazelle

## Fifth student ill with meningitis

A mass immunisation programme is continuing at Southampton University, as it was confirmed last night that a fifth student had been admitted to hospital with suspected meningitis.

Two undergraduates at the university have died from the disease this month and two others are already in hospital.

The announcement of the new case came as hospital officials said that a student from Leicester University had died of meningitis just hours after being sent home from a casualty department. Chantelle McCallum, 20, a second-year sociology student at Leicester University, died at the city's Royal Infirmary on Monday morning.

Peter Homa, chief executive of Leicester Royal Infirmary NHS Trust, said he was satisfied the correct clinical decisions had been made.

All first-year students at Southampton University's Wessex Lane halls, which house around 1,200 students and where the victims lived, are being offered immunisation against meningococcus group C and have been offered antibiotics.

In the first hour of the immunisation programme 300 students were vaccinated, a university spokesman said. Immunisation sessions are expected to continue today.

The fifth student was admitted to hospital in Southampton on Tuesday with as yet unconfirmed meningitis. Another male student is in hospital in Southampton and a third man has been admitted to a hospital in the Thames Valley area. The university said all three are making good progress. A 19-year-old female student died on 11 October, and a second 19-year-old female student died on Monday.

## Record sums being paid to 'sick' police

Record sums are being paid to police officers retiring because of ill health. But, writes Jason Bennett, Crime Correspondent, a significant number of the "sick" are really fleeing justice.

They believe a number of officers are using medical grounds to escape disciplinary hearings.

Police pensions, which are guaranteed and come from the overall crime budget, rose 10 per cent in the past year.

Merseyside police force has the highest number of medical retirements, which account for 77 per cent a year, followed by North Yorkshire police at 76.5 per cent and Greater Manchester at 65 per cent.

From 1995-96, more than 70 per cent of Metropolitan police officers under investigation or facing disciplinary charges retired on medical grounds — 31 out of 41 departures. It fell to about half last year.

David O'Dowd, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, said in his annual report published yesterday, that he was "particularly concerned" about the "continuing high level of medical retirements".

Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan police has warned: "We may

reach a position where the only thing a corrupt officer fears is leaving the service under an ill-health pension".

As disclosed in *The Independent* earlier this month, an unpublished report from a joint Home Office/Treasury working party will say that up to 25 per cent of every pound of public money earmarked for fighting crime and protecting property against fire will soon be spent on the pensions of retired police and fire officers.

That figure could rise to 50 per cent unless there are drastic and immediate reforms. The money is being spent on meeting the gap between existing staff contributions and payments to retired officers.

Although the number of officers retiring has dropped slightly, the costs continue to escalate because wages are higher and people live longer. To get a pension, officers usually have to serve 30 years, but they can short cut this by retiring on medical grounds.

## Lawyer cleared of assault on woman bouncer

A City lawyer who punched a female nightclub bouncer unconscious by mistake was cleared of assault yesterday.

Hywel Phillip, 25, was said to have deliberately lashed out at Anita Gardner at the Roadhouse nightclub in Covent Garden, London, after she tried to stop him pushing through a cloakroom queue.

The 24-year-old woman, who has been a minder for stars like Diana Ross and Eric Clapton, told Southwark Crown Court she momentarily blacked out after she fell to the floor and the lawyer began raining blows on her.

But Mr Phillip, cleared of the charges of actual bodily harm after a 15-minute jury retirement, maintained he had been acting in self-defence after being hit by a man, and had been "flabbergasted" when he realised he had struck a woman.

## Is time-travel possible?

Time travel may not be as fanciful as it sounds if the latest mind-boggling theory from physicists proves to be correct.

Scientists are beginning to take seriously the suggestion that there may be a second, hidden, dimension of time. If it could be unwrapped, by focusing a huge amount of energy into a tiny volume, the consequences would mean that, for example, an undesirable event seen looming in the "future" could simply be side-stepped.

The notion was originally put forward by physicist Cumrun Vafa from Harvard University in the United States. "At this point, it's making the formalism look nice," Mr Vafa told *New Scientist* magazine. "Whenever that happens in the history of physics, there's usually something behind it." It is unlikely that enough energy exists anywhere in the universe to unleash the hidden time. However, some physicists speculate that this could happen in the centre of a black hole.

## Blaze police find two dead

A murder inquiry has been set up after a man and a woman were found dead at a bungalow near Penrith, Cumbria police said yesterday.

The bodies were discovered after firefighters called to the house in the village of Troutbeck found a fierce blaze in the engine of a car inside a garage. After putting the fire out they found a man's body slumped inside and following a search of the house a woman's body was discovered on a bed. A police spokesman said neither person had been identified, but they were not thought to be local.

## Prices rise with El Nino

British shoppers could face significant price rises for food and drink because of the so-called El Nino weather system in the Pacific, according to a report yesterday.

Weather around the world has been thrown out of kilter because of El Nino, an unusually warm water current which develops about once a decade and is this year thought to be at its worst for about 150 years.

It has already caused drought in South-east Asia and flooding in South America, and experts at the Economist Intelligence Unit believe its impact on crops such as cocoa, coffee and sugar will drive prices up. Just how badly the crop harvests will be affected will not be known for a few months.

But previous years in which El Nino has been strong have led to commodity price increases as high as 56 per cent, said EIU expert Karen St Jean, author of the report entitled *World Commodity Forecasts - Food, Feedstuffs and Beverages*.

She said: "The last bad El Nino year was 1982, and that led to 7 per cent price rises in 1983 and a further 5 per cent the year after. Shoppers can expect to see higher prices on the supermarket shelves."

Flooding and heavy rain in South America early this year, which have been blamed on El Nino, led to a 20-30 per cent increase in the UK retail price of coffee, she added.

However, the impact on prices would be cushioned by large reserves of stocks.

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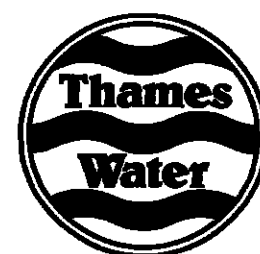
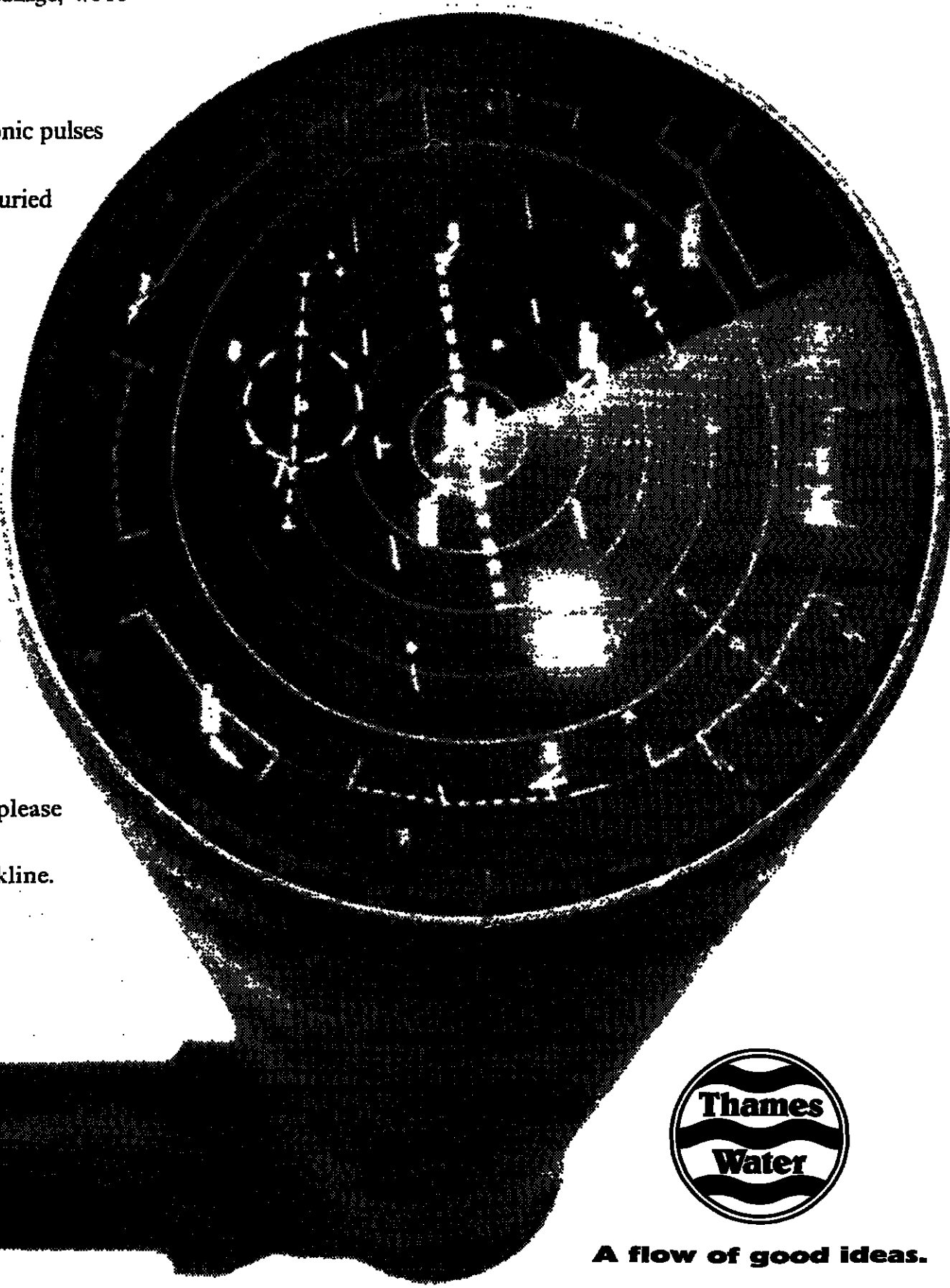
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A flow of good ideas.





## Witness from the front line of a police force bent on brutality

Dalilah is the first Algerian policewoman to escape from her country and tell of the torture and executions she witnessed at the hands of Algeria's intelligence services. In a flat in a London suburb, she told how she was forced to sign fake death certificates for prisoners whom she saw dying under torture.

Dalilah is used to blood. When she describes the prisoners, stripped half-naked and tied to ladders in the garage of the Cavignac police station in central Algiers, she does so with a curious detachment.

Later, when I have spent more than an hour listening to her evidence of cruelty and death, she will turn to me with a terrifying admission. "I'm being treated by a psychologist because I have bad dreams," she says. "My great passion now is to go to see horror movies - it's the only thing that interests me. I want to see blood."

It is an extraordinary remark to come from this attractive woman of 30 with her abundant dark black hair tied in a bunch, dandling the child of an Algerian woman friend on her knee. In your local police station, Dalilah would be a welcome member of the force. And so she was when she began serving at the Colonel Amirouche Street police station in 1985.

"I loved the job - I still love that job I originally had," she says. "I was in the intelligence department, a police detective in the Special Branch and I'd wanted to be a policewoman to serve my people since I was 12 years old."

Dalilah was trained for nine months at the Chateaufort Higher Police School in Algiers - her father had been a police officer - and she enjoyed playing in police sports teams as well as her work as a detective.

Things started to go wrong for her during the October 1988 demonstrations for democracy and then they went wrong again - badly wrong - with the cancellation by the military-backed government of national elections that the Islamists were certain to win in 1991. Six policemen were assassinated in Algiers on 12 February 1992. Dalilah knew two of them, Elias and Mourad, both shot down in the cashbah.

"I was moved to Cavignac police station near the post office and I hated what was happening there, what was happening to the police."

"They tortured people - I saw this happening. I saw innocent young people tortured like wild animals. Yes, I myself saw the torture sessions. What could I do?"

"They executed people at 11 o'clock at night, people who had done nothing. They had been denounced by people who didn't get along with them. People just said 'He's a terrorist' and the man would be executed."

Dalilah talks about torture like an automaton, her voice a monotone. She says she saw, over a period of months, at least 1,000 men tortured at the rate of 12 a day, the police interrogators starting at 10am and working in shifts until 11pm.

"They tied young people to a ladder with a rope. They were always shirtless, sometimes naked. They put a rag over their face. Then they forced salty water into them. There was a tap with a pipe that they stuck in the prisoner's throat and they ran the water until the prisoners' bellies had swelled right up. "When I remember it, I

think how it hurt to see a human being like this - it's better to murder men than see them tortured like that."

Dalilah cries when she describes what she saw. "The torturers would say: 'You must confess that you killed so-and-so' and they made the prisoners sign a confession with their eyes blindfolded - they didn't have the right to read what they were signing."

"There were prisoners who wept and said: 'I've done nothing - I have the right to a doctor and a lawyer'. When they said that, they got a fist in the mouth. Those who died were under the water torture. Their bellies were too swollen with water. Sometimes while this happened, the torturers would put broomsticks up their anuses."

"Some of the prisoners had beards, some didn't. They were all poor. The top policemen gave the order to torture - I think it was given over the phone. But they didn't use the word torture - they used to call it *nakdoulou eslah* - 'guest treatment'. There would be screaming and crying from the prisoners. They would shout: 'In the name of God, I did nothing' or 'We're all the same, we're Muslims like you'. They screamed and cried a lot."

Men broke and died under torture. "I saw two men who died like that on the ladder," Dalilah says. "The two bodies hung there on the ladder. They were dead and the torturer said: 'Take them to the hospital and say they died in a battle.' They did the same thing with those who were executed at 11 at night - it was done after curfew when only the police



BY ROBERT  
FISK

and the gendarmerie could drive around.

"I had to fill out the death certificates so the bodies could be taken out of the hospitals. I had to sign that it was a body that had been found in the forest after it had decomposed - it was very hot then."

Dalilah says that she tried to protest to a superior officer, whose name she gave as Hamid. "I said to him: 'You mustn't do these things because we are all Muslims - there should at least be evidence against these people before you kill them.' He said to me: 'My girl, you are not made for the police force - if you suspect someone, you must kill him. When you kill people, that's how you get promoted.'"

The torture sessions were carried out in a garage level with the ground floor at the Cavignac police station.

"Any cop would hit the prisoners with the butt of his Kalashnikov (rifle). Some of the prisoners went completely mad from being tortured. Everyone who was brought to the Cavignac was tortured - around 70 per cent of the cops there saw all this. They participated."

"Although the torture was the job of the judiciary police, the others joined in. The prisoners would be 20 to 30 to a cell and they would be brought one by one to the ladder, kicked in the ribs all the time. It was inhuman."

"In the cells, the prisoners



Line up: Over a period of months, the police tortured at least 1,000 men. Dalilah, who witnessed the torture, had to fill out the death certificates of those who died. She had to say that the bodies had been found in the forest after they had decomposed

Photograph  
© Abbas/Magnum

got a piece of bread every two days. There was no medicine. Every prisoner, according to the law, has the right to a doctor. But they would be returned to their cells covered in blood."

According to Dalilah, women prisoners were taken for torture to a special section of the Chateaufort police station called the National Organisation for the Suppression of Criminality, where Algerian military security police prevented all but those with special passes from entering. "You had to be a high-ranking officer to get in there because of the way they treated women," Dalilah says. "They killed there too, but I don't know any more."

Dalilah's tragedy is a personal one. "I can't sleep in the dark because I'm afraid," she says. "It's not my fault because my fiancé was murdered during Ramadan in 1993. The men who did this to him were dressed as policemen - and they killed him because he was a policeman. They kill without reason."

Who are 'they', I ask? And she replies: "That's the big question."

"My friend Nacera was letting her flat to a policewoman called Hamida and she received a threat letter - apparently from armed Islamists - saying: 'If you protect the police, you're dead.' They gave her one month (to evict Hamida). Then on 12 July 1994, they shot them both in Nacera's car in the Cité Garidi."

But it was torture that destroyed Dalilah's life - and which proved her undoing.

"There was a group of elderly people who were tortured," she says. "I couldn't stand to see it, especially one man of about 55 whose arm was rotting. He had gangrene and he smelled very bad. I couldn't bear it and I went and bought him some penicillin and put it on his arm because I thought it would help."

"There were another six people in his cell who had been tortured - it smelled like death in there. But another policeman had seen me and I asked him not to say anything. You see, we didn't have the right to talk to prisoners - only to hit them."

"But the policeman wrote a report to the commissioner who called me in and said my case would go to the national commissioner. He said: 'Maybe you'll go to prison for helping terrorists'. The man I helped was freed afterwards - which showed he was innocent."

Armed Islamists - four young men who turned up at her mother's home in a Golf car - had meanwhile targeted Dalilah, demanding she hand over her police pistol within 15 days.

When Dalilah asked for police protection, she was told that "everyone is in the same situation". She slept in police stations at night. Then she slipped from home one night and bribed her way onto a boat for Europe, on the run from both the Algerian security forces and the Islamist guerrillas.

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## Cadbury loses Swiss bar wars

The chocolate manufacturer Cadbury yesterday lost its "bar wars" legal action against the Swiss chocolate industry.

A High Court judge ruled that the British firm had been "passing off" one of its own brands as Swiss confectionery, and gave the company two months to sell existing stocks.

Mr Justice Laddie agreed with the manufacturers Suchard and Lindt, and Switzerland's chocolate industry's trade association, Chocuisse, that the British public could be fooled into thinking that Cadbury's "Swiss Chalet" bar was genuinely Swiss. The ruling means "Swiss" chocolate must mean just that - made in Switzerland.

Awarding costs of up to £1m against Cadbury, the judge said he had concluded "that a substantial number of members of the public who regard Swiss chocolate as the name for a group of products of repute will be confused into thinking that Swiss Chalet is a member of that group by reason of the use of the name Swiss Chalet".

The huge sums of money that Swiss chocolate firms have been prepared to spend over a modestly-sized bar of honey flavoured milk chocolate - with small pieces of almond nougat - show the importance they

attach to one of the country's key industries.

Mr Justice Laddie said: "Bearing in mind all the evidence, I have come to the conclusion that the words 'Swiss chocolate' have acquired in England a distinct reputation."

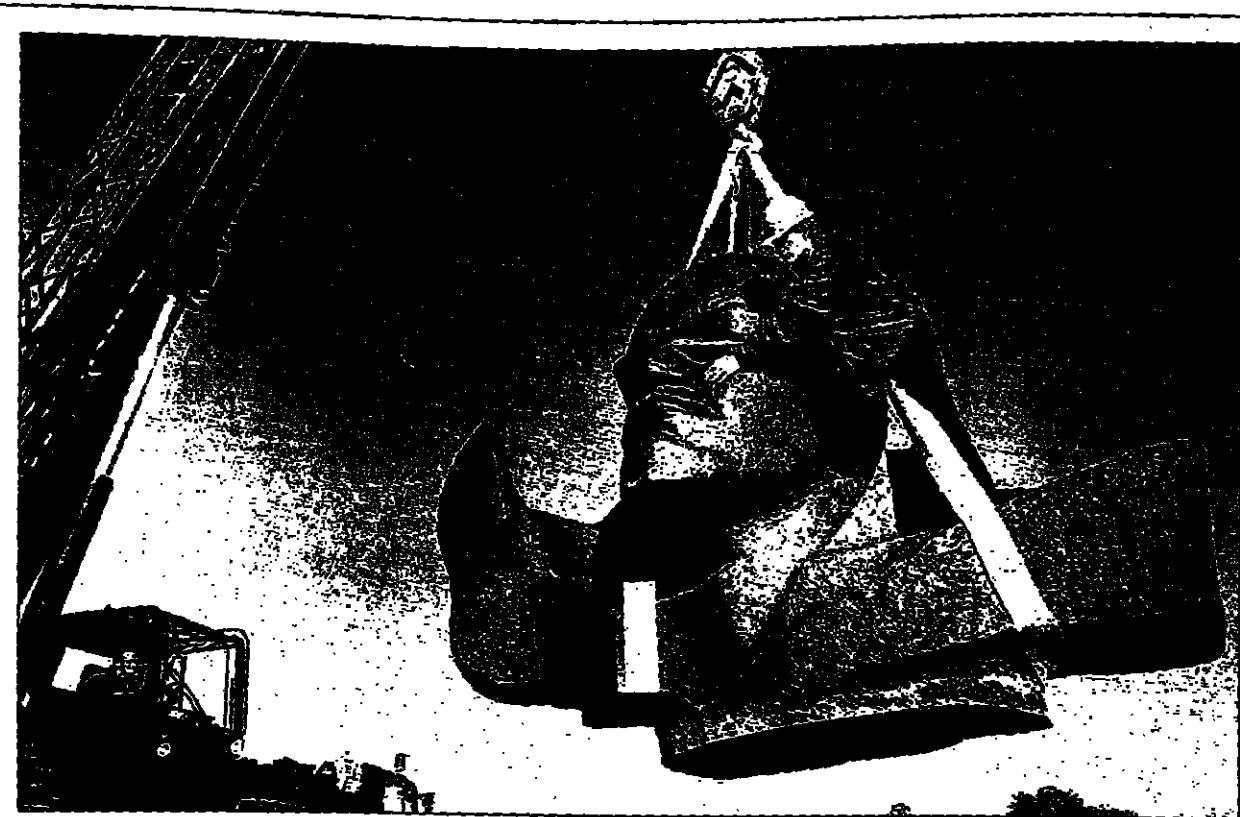
"Although it refers to chocolate which emanates from Switzerland, the plaintiffs have proved that to a significant part of the public here those words denote a group of products of distinctive reputation."

Cadbury later played down the importance of the case and said that, while surprised and disappointed to lose, the product was of negligible importance to its trade. A spokesman added: "No one will miss it."

Swiss Chalet bars were produced "rotationally" with other variety bars such as Grand Seville and Black Forest and had not been on shop shelves since the spring, he said. The packaging included a picture of the snow-capped Matterhorn in Switzerland with a chalet in a valley below.

The ruling follows close on the heels of a vote by Euro MPs aimed at forcing British manufacturers to change the name of milk chocolate so as to reflect its vegetable fat content.

— Michael Streeter



A five-ton bronze statue of Lenin being delivered to Sotheby's in West Sussex yesterday. The statue, which was erected in the Latvian town of Preiļi, will be auctioned next May (estimate £12,000-£18,000). Photograph: Jeff Rayer

## Lorry drivers facing new French blockades

British lorry drivers are facing massive disruption on the Continent after pay talks between French truckers and employers broke down yesterday.

Road-blocks could paralyse much of European traffic from this weekend with truck drivers due to begin their action on Sunday night. Daniel Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said: "It is very bad

news indeed. It now looks like massive disruption on Europe's roads is inevitable. This is set to be an absolute disaster for the British haulage industry. Militant French drivers are guarding blockades at ports and borders and we will be looking at massive disruption on all France's main arteries.

"We are urging all sides to resolve their difficulties as speedily as possible."

Last year's 12-day strike, when hundreds of lorries were trapped at blockades, cost the British haulage industry £1.5m and it is feared this weekend's strike action could have even greater repercussions.

Neil Kinnock, the EU transport commissioner, has written to the French government reminding it of the EU law that it must ensure free movement of goods.

## More council fraud is uncovered

The number of local government frauds detected last year rose by 25 per cent to 208,000 cases at a cost of £76m, the Audit Commission reports today. Benefit fraud alone accounted for £68m of this.

But with most fraud going undetected, the commission announced that auditors will be undertaking a special audit of 400 councils during the next 12 months to assess their arrangements for preventing and detecting housing benefit fraud.

Using computerised data matching techniques and prevention measures can have dramatic results, the commission said.

Concerted action by councils and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) slashed student award fraud by 80 per cent, from £4.9m to £0.9m. The UCAS application screening service is used by local education authorities to check applications before students are granted an award. This identified potentially fraudulent applications valued at £2m.

Earlier this year, 300 councils took part in an experiment using computer technology to combat fraudsters, saving £15m.

Data matching enabled councils to identify people who

were claiming benefits, such as housing benefit, in more than one council. In Manchester, where there are several local authorities, the amount of money saved rose by 30 per cent. Savings across London boroughs rose by 50 per cent.

The report shows that only 1 per cent of fraud is committed by council staff.

The commission pinpointed new areas of concern, including organised fraudsters intercepting and altering cheques. "Although the amounts involved are small (slightly more than £1m) in comparison with total expenditure by councils, there has been a sharp increase in this type of fraud."

Fraudulent payments to suppliers and contractors rose almost three-fold. These include overcharging for goods, and contractors charging for work not carried out. One subcontractor submitted almost 1,000 false invoices.

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said councils had done well in improving the detection of fraud, but added: "There is still a great deal to be done by local and central government. Prevention is the key."

— Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

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## Evans show censured for 'lewd remarks'

Chris Evans has fallen foul of television watchdogs for the fourth time over his television programme, *TFI Friday*, the Broadcasting Standards Council ruled yesterday.

The American "shock-jock" Howard Stern should not have been allowed to make lewd

sexual references on the programme, it said. Stern told Evans he had met Evans' former wife, Carol McGiffin, and planned to bring her to the studio and make love to her.

He said: "She's spruced herself up since she left you. I said to her I'll make love to you on

my lap while Chris watches."

The BSC said the conversation had been inappropriate for daytime viewing. The BBC2 drama serial *This Life* has also been attacked by viewers for showing a graphic gay love scene but the BSC did not uphold their complaints.

## DAILY POEM

### The Poetry of a Root Crop

by Charles Kingsley

Underneath their elder-robe  
Russet swede and golden globe,  
Feathered carrot, burrowing deep,  
Steadfast wait in charmed sleep;  
Treasure-houses wherein lie,  
Locked by angels' alchemy,  
Milk and hair, and blood, and bone,  
Children of the barren stone;  
Children of the flaming Atr,  
With his blue eye keen and bare,  
Spirit-people smiling down  
On frozen field and tolling town -  
Tolling town that will not heed  
God His voice for rage and greed;  
Frozen fields that surpliced lie,  
Gazing patient at the sky:  
Like some marble carven nun,  
With folded hands when work is done,  
Who mute upon her tomb doth pray,  
Till the resurrection day.

This week's poems come from the new, 800-page *Penguin Book of Victorian Verse*, edited by Daniel Karlin (Allen Lane/The Penguin Press, £25). Charles Kingsley, author of *The Water Babies* and *Hereward the Wake*, Christian Socialist reformer and professor of modern history at Cambridge, published his *Collected Poems* in 1872.

## Diana burial park to open

Althorp Park, where Diana, Princess of Wales is buried, is to be opened to the public for two months next summer, the Spencer family announced yesterday.

The burial site on the island on a lake in the Northamptonshire park will be on view, but not accessible to the public.

The opening date, 1 July, coincides with the Princess's birthday and the park will remain open until 30 August. The following day, the anniversary of her death, will be preserved as a private, family day.

A spokeswoman for the Spencers said an appropriate memorial to the Princess would be situated in the park, but it had not yet been decided what it would be.

"Visitors will be invited to apply for admission in advance of the opening dates, but no applications can be considered until details are announced in the New Year."

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## Progressive school baffled by inspectors' censure



Closure threat: Pupils at Summerhill, Suffolk, opt to make their own bikes rather than attend lessons, and top right, enjoy a break or play basketball. Inspectors have told the school to raise standards or close Photograph: Brian Harris

The school that led the way in an experiment of progressive education is under threat because of poor results. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, went to Suffolk to visit the school and talk to pupils

"You could tell the inspectors because they wore suits and ties," says Oli, a 15-year-old pupil at Summerhill school. Ties mean trouble at the 76-year-old school, an experiment in progressive education where freedom means no uniform and no lessons, if pupils choose.

This time, the inspectors' verdict — never complimentary since the school's foundation by the Scottish educationalist A. S. Neill — was serious.

Unless it improved standards of literacy and numeracy among younger pupils it would be struck off the Government's register of approved independent schools and forced to close.

In the brick schoolhouse set

in 12 acres of Suffolk woodland, pupils and staff are outraged and perplexed by the judgement. The inspectors, who called for a day last summer, were the latest in a long line to fail to appreciate Summerhill's educational philosophy, said Zoe Readhead, head teacher and daughter of the school's founder.

By focusing on standards at fixed ages — the tough three Rs yardstick by which English state primaries are measured — they ignored Summerhill kids' propensity to catch up with a handful of GCSEs at 16.

The fact that the greatest threat to the school's survival has come under a Labour government is also baffling Summerhill staff. Canny state school teachers could probably have warned them that David Blunkett's "zero tolerance of failure" would not stop at the Suffolk border.

With six months' grace to address inspectors' concerns, Mrs Readhead is, in true New Labour style, drawing up an action plan. Some concessions have been made. The "lounge", a scruffy, wood-paneled room

where staff and children hold weekly meetings to devise the school's laws has been carpeted after health and safety concerns, though they were happy with its original boarded floor.

But some Summerhill traditions, notably the principle of keeping lessons optional, remain non-negotiable. "That has been central to the school since its foundation and I will close the school rather than compromise," says Mrs Readhead.

Only a vote by pupils for compulsory lessons could make her change her mind, and that seems unlikely.

James, 13, who came to the school last term, says he attends more classes now than at his Kent secondary school where he was bullied.

Busy in the workshop preparing for the school's Halloween party, he says: "Here, everything is what you want it to be — everything is how you plan it. The inspectors didn't realise everybody can progress as fast as they need to."

At 11am on a Wednesday morning kids are swinging precariously from a rope attached to the school's towering Big Beech tree, while others repair bikes from a pile of beaten up BMXs and racers.

The idea, says Oli, is to use the wheels and handlebars to customise your own machine — a concept not a million miles from A. S. Neill's vision of child-led education.

In truth, though inspectors may ask, staff could not provide precise levels of attendance if they tried, since accurate register keeping is impossible when children slip in and out of lessons as they choose.

In most cases a period of "dossing about" is followed by a return to the classroom, at least until the next sunny day, and staff keep a "special attention list" for any absentees causing concern.

However, the school's action plan is likely to give ground and promise to increase monitoring of attendance and performance, despite Mrs Readhead's concerns that strength "cannot be defined by tick boxes".

Children, she says, "learn the sense of responsibility by living in a self-governing community".

Old Summerhillians and sympathisers of A. S. Neill's vision of a school where "children could develop free from fear" are rallying against the closure threat.

Some of the main supporters come from Japan, Taiwan and Korea, the countries whose traditionalist education systems David Blunkett and Tony Blair extol.

As a last resort, Mrs Readhead has a letter left by her father to be sent to inspectors after his death in 1973 asking for understanding of Summerhill's unique character.

The letter was never posted, because Mrs Readhead could not identify an individual to blame for the criticisms made of the school.

After the latest inspection, she is finally considering sending it.

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your chin. You hear a buzzing: a wasp lands on your cheek. It crawls across

your cheek and up the side of your nose. Now you feel it slowly moving down

the corner of your mouth. It

continues to move up the side of

your face towards your nostrils.

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Annie Lindsell, Motor Neuron Disease sufferer and supporter of voluntary euthanasia, in a speech at the House of Commons describing the experience of a friend who died of the disease.

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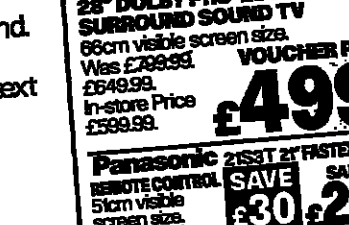


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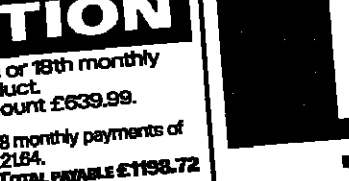


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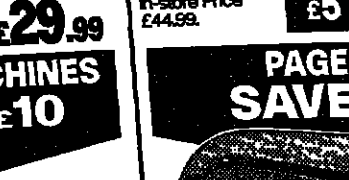


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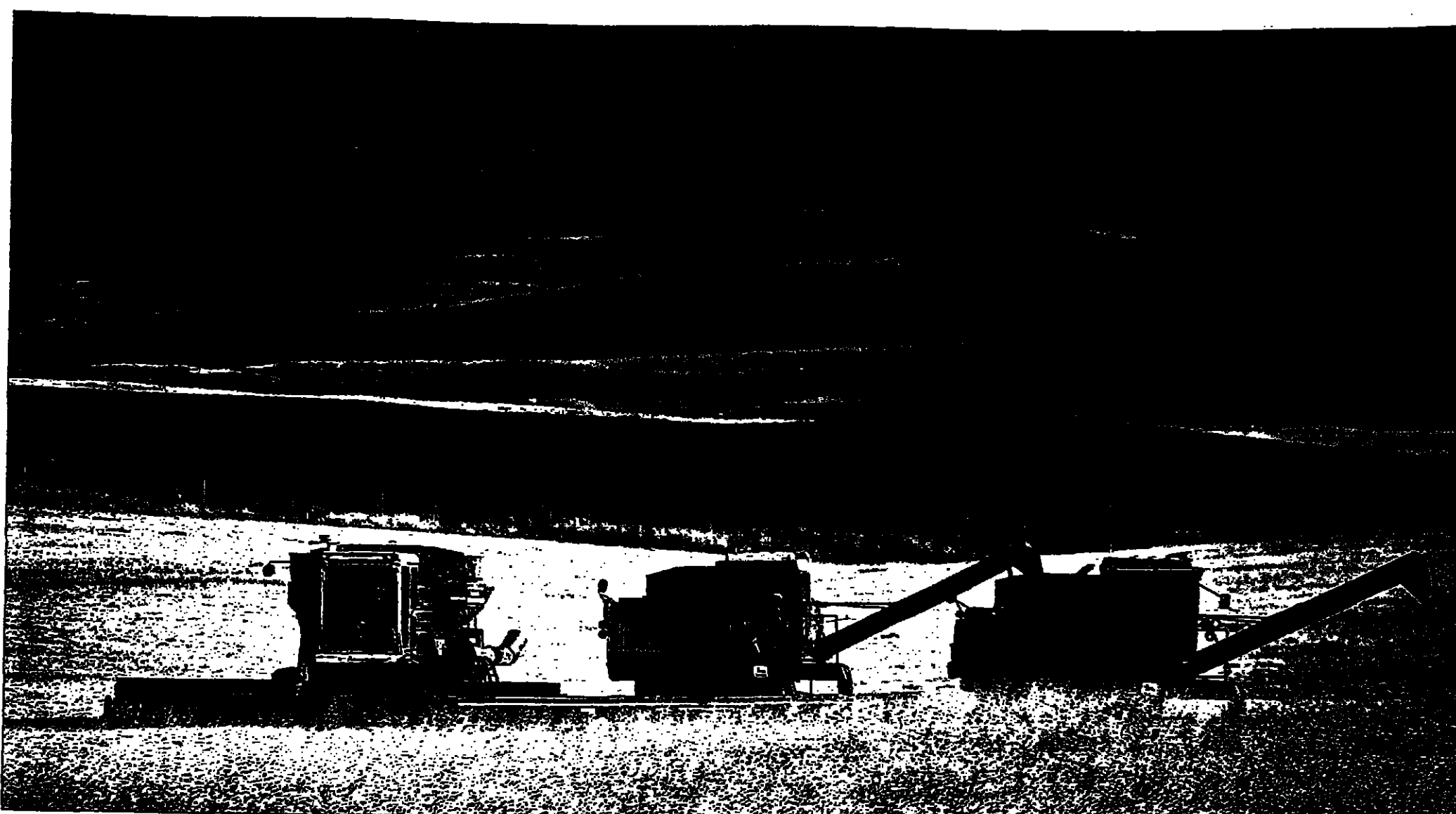
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Growth area: Farmers are concerned that the advantages of genetically engineered crops can be passed on to weeds to create 'superweeds'

Photograph: Colorific

## WHO PAYS FOR THE FAILED CROPS?

Who foots the bill when a transgenic crop fails? That's the question now being argued by farmers in Mississippi and by Monsanto, the agribusiness company, after thousands of hectares of genetically modified cotton crops either shed their bolls or else developed small, malformed bolls.

The cotton contains a gene for resistance to Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, meaning that farmers could kill weeds in the field without worrying about it killing their crop.

But for reasons which are still unclear, 12,000 hectares of the transgenic plants - out of a total of 320,000 planted for the first time this year - have failed in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. Local reports suggest that normal cotton, without the extra gene, has not been affected. "Cotton right across the road of a different variety was not affected," Robert McCarty, director of Mississippi's Bureau of Plant Industry told *New Scientist* magazine.

A lawyer for Mississippi farmers says their losses could total millions of dollars, and says that Monsanto is trying to play down the problem.

But the company said only a few thousand hectares have been affected, and that malformed bolls are confined to its transgenic crop.

— Charles Arthur

## Superweed fear as genetic plants cross over to the wild

Genes resistant to herbicides can cross from specially engineered crops to weed species, say French scientists. It is a finding which puts a question mark over a burgeoning business. Charles Arthur, asks whether the day of the superweed is coming.

Although the French team says the chance of this process happening under normal conditions is rare, its formal finding confirms the frequently repeated complaints of green campaigners: that commercial food growers have ignored the possible hazards involved in using scientific technologies which are relatively unproven.

The scientists, based at the National Agricultural Research Institute in Le Rheu, France, took a transgenic oilseed rape plant containing a gene conferring resistance to glufosinate ammonium, or Basta, and crossed it with an unrelated

species, the wild radish weed. They found that over four generations the resistance gene became incorporated into the weeds until it could spread among non-hybrid weeds.

This experimental proof suggests that transgenic crops designed to be resistant to a particular herbicide could have a limited useful life before their genetic advantage is passed on to the weeds around them.

"This is something that we have been worried about for a while," said Susan Casey of the Genetics Forum, which opposes transgenic crops.

But Colin Merritt, UK technical manager of the bioindustry company Monsanto, insisted that the finding, reported today in the scientific journal *Nature*, will have no adverse effect on the company's use of crops genetically engineered to be resistant to its Roundup herbicide.

"Roundup blocks a particular enzyme found only in particular organisms," he said yesterday. "That means that resistance to it can't be developed directly. The benefits greatly outweigh the problems

associated with this technology." He insisted there is no chance of a resistant "superweed" emerging.

Monsanto has attracted criticism from green and consumer groups in Europe over its supply of a transgenic soya plant to US farmers last year. The soya has a gene which is resistant to Roundup. But farmers did not separate the genetically altered crop from the normal crop when they harvested it last autumn - thus going against the express wishes of many consumers, who want foods made from or containing genetically modified components to be clearly labelled.

Julie Sheppard, of the Consumers' Association, said: "It has been recognised for some time that you could get this sort of herbicide resistance crossing between unrelated species to give herbicide tolerance. The problem is that field trials are usually short-term and limited in size - whereas in agriculture you're planting these crops for years, over huge tracts of land. When you have a monoculture, you increase the risk of 'out-crossing' of genes occurring."

## Why potatoes could be the future of paint

Putting potatoes into paint is the latest brainwave to tackle global warming. It's not science fiction - ICI's Dulux division has almost got it cracked. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains how white can be green in the world of decorating.

Painting the walls with potatoes will soon be the province not only of unruly children, but also of sensible, environmentally aware adults. Dulux is developing a household paint which replaces up to 25 per cent of the petroleum-based chemicals now used in paints with starch, derived from crops including potatoes, wheat and maize.

Normal interior paints currently use vinyl and acrylic derived from petroleum-based chemicals: these solidify when exposed to air because they form long-chained molecules. Now chemists at ICI have found a way to replace those molecules with others from starch-based crops. Paints made this way are just as hard and feel the same

as standard paints because the starch component is bound into the polymerised molecules.

Initially, bacteria and fungi cannot break this down, meaning that in dry conditions the paint does not rot on the walls. But the Dulux team has discovered a problem of lowered water resistance compared to standard paints, which they think is caused by the starch breaking down into its components - complex sugar molecules. "If you have too much free sugar in a paint, water has a field day with it," Philip Taylor, an ICI research chemist, told *New Scientist* magazine.

But Ray Leggetter, the UK technical manager, said yesterday that the company was "optimistic that this problem can be overcome", adding that "a move to commercialisation will take at least two years".

A further problem the team faces is producing it in any other colour than white. "We still have a lot of work to do on tinting," Mr Taylor said.

Technical hurdles apart, a decision on exactly when to start selling the paints could depend largely on the price of oil: as this starts to rise, biosustainable products could be a reasonable

alternative, despite their higher costs at present.

ICI's new paint is part of a long-standing drive by the company towards developing products which have "biostability" - that is, made from renewable resources such as crops and wood rather than from fossil fuels. An advantage of starch-based paints would be that they could be composted - which might prove attractive to green consumers, or if new laws force companies to make more biodegradable products. Millions of gallons of unused or dried-up vinyl paints currently have to be disposed of in public dumps, where they are resistant to decay.

The development is another in the growing effort by large corporations to turn away from products and technologies based on fossil fuels, and develop replacements derived from plentiful or renewable sources.

Recently, major oil companies have announced substantial investments in solar energy, and yesterday US researchers announced that they have developed a system to make solid parts for cars and trucks using soya-derived plastics to replace petroleum-based ones.

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## Just William's mutant egg gives Tonetone a pecking

The Continuing Adventures of Tonetone the Boy Prime Minister, episode 15. Tonetone has had a busy summer. He has saved an ancient monarchy from collapse, appointed a drugs tsar to combat the evil Rastapopoulos, and worn jeans in Tuscany. His white dog, Mow, has even saved Northern Ireland. Now they have both been called back to the House of Commons, where strange things are afoot.

Just William, chapter 7. It was, thought William, a rather fine catapult. From the first moment that he and Duncan had first seen it in the window of Mr Jenk's General Stores, William had coveted it. Through acts of quite exceptional goodness he had finally saved up the necessary amount - two shillings

### POLITICAL SKETCH

DAVID ARONOVITCH

and sixpence - to purchase the object of his attentions. Now it was his, and William was happy.

"Mow!" says Tonetone. "Can all that applause be for us?" Mow barks her assent joyfully. Tonetone modestly takes a bow. "Now, what's the problem?" he asks Cookulus. "We are being terrorised by a mad mutant egg!" replies Cookulus squeakily. "We expect it back any minute!" "There must be something we can do!" exclaims Tonetone.

As far as William was concerned there was one feat above all that was to be accomplished with the aid of his new catapult. As he strode into the Old Barn, hairs akimbo, it was the settling of scores with his old enemies, those appalling swots the Tony Blairites, that was uppermost in his mind.

Tonetone looks up from his seat, and sees a curious sight coming towards him. A huge question mark forms above his

head. "Gosh Mow!" he exclaims. "What on earth is that? It's got the body of a boy, but the head of an egg!" "Whoosh!" replies Mow, excitedly.

"Billions of blue blistering barnacles!" ejaculates Captain Prescott, "it must be something spawned by that meteorite which fell into the sea off the South Pole last year, and which no expedition has yet managed to find!"

In some ways William had always nursed a secret admiration for Tony Blair. Behind the transparent honesty, and beyond the well-scrubbed neck, there was a certain ruthless deviousness and epidermal grubbiness which appealed to William. But he could not afford for sentiment to be his master now.

In front of both gangs - the Outlaws and the Blairites - he squared up to the other boy. "Jus' you jolly well watch this!" he warned, fitting a pebble to his catapult, and drawing back the elastic.

The mutant egg approaches Tonetone, cheered on by a crowd of giant stick insects. Tonetone is about to ask whether it comes in peace, when it jumps up and pecks him on the arm! Exclamation mark! thinks Tonetone. A pecking egg!

Even with an inferior weapon, William was no mean shot. Armed with a catapult of sterling craftsmanship, and pebbles of exceptional roundness and smoothness, however, the determined Outlaw could not miss. With a hearty thud the missiles buried themselves in the centre of their target. "Huh!" said William, standing back. "I'd jus' like to see you beat that!"

Tonetone is beginning to feel sorry for the egg. Five times now it has leapt up as high as its little legs will carry it, and noisily knocked its shell against the Boy Prime Minister. "Come on, egg!" exclaims Tonetone. "Why not give up?" Spent, the mutant egg subsides. Once again Tonetone has triumphed.

The clang of stone on metal told the whole story. Tony Blair's shot had sailed far wide of the mark - William was the victor.

"Oh William!" said Violet Elizabeth. "I think you're tho thexthy!"



Plenty to reveal: Michael Heseltine could drop a number of bombshells Photograph: Brian Harris

## Heseltine memoirs threaten to expose Tory secrets

Michael Heseltine, the former deputy prime minister, is writing his memoirs and Margaret Thatcher's most lethal Tory opponent has a number of bombshells that he could drop on the former prime minister, not least about the Westland helicopter row that could have precipitated her downfall in 1986.

As Deputy Prime Minister, with a finger in every political pie of government, Mr Heseltine knew all the inside secrets of the final Major years, and his memoirs could well be the first to expose the definitive story of the Tories' May election débacle.

That task will be made easier by the involvement of his collaborator on the book Anthony Howard, of the *Times*, who was

editor of the *Crossman Diaries* and biographer of Rab Butler, another former Conservative deputy prime minister. Mr Heseltine remains MP for Henley, but since May he has resumed his chairmanship of Haymarket Press, the magazine publishing company he built up in the 1960s.

The Westland affair started with a relatively minor problem over the fate of a financially pressed West Country helicopter manufacturer, and blew into a fully-fledged Cabinet split over co-operation with Europe. In the end, Mr Heseltine felt compelled to walk out of the Cabinet, and resign as Secretary of State for Defence, while Sir Leon Brittan, then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was

forced to resign. Sir Leon's department had leaked the confidential advice of a government law officer in a calculated attempt to destabilise Mr Heseltine, his Cabinet colleague, and Tory MPs were so outraged that it was necessary to sacrifice Sir Leon to calm them down. But at one critical point, Mrs Thatcher told a colleague that she might even have to resign.

Mrs Thatcher won that battle, but the Heseltine autobiography, will also provide the inside story on his 1990 challenge to her leadership - which brought about her replacement by John Major, and Mr Heseltine's return to Cabinet.

— Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

## Green taxes planned to curb car use

'Green taxes' to curb car use will be proposed in a Budget consultation paper by the Chancellor next month. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, heard John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, warn that hard choices lie ahead to save the planet.

A steep increase in duty on petrol could be included in a "green" Budget to be published by the Chancellor next month, to curb car use and meet Britain's ambitious target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions which cause global warming.

Gordon Brown committed the Government to annual rises in real terms of 6 per cent in the duty on petrol in his last Budget, but Whitehall sources said yesterday that there could be higher increases proposed in the consultation paper for implementation in the Chancellor's next Budget in the spring.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday warned MPs that global warming could lead to flooding of UK coasts, unless action was taken. "In the United Kingdom we could face problems, extremes of weather, new diseases, shortages of food and fresh water, flooding of our coasts," he told the cross-party Commons Select Committee on Environment, Transport and the Regions, which shadows his super-ministry.

All levels of government, business and individuals will face "difficult decisions" in meeting Britain's target for re-

ductions, Mr Prescott said. The Chancellor's decision to publish a consultation paper on the Budget for the first time will be seen as part of the softening up exercise to persuade the public to accept the need for higher taxes to curb car use, and reduce energy consumption.

Ministerial sources have privately said that Mr Prescott's Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions could become an important arm of the Treasury in raising taxes which the consumer is willing to pay. Mr Prescott told the select committee that it was feasible to deliver Britain's new target of a 20 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010, but it would require "a major shift in resources and patterns of behaviour".

Europe is proposing a reduction by 15 per cent, conditional on agreement with the rest of the world at the climate change conference in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

Mr Prescott, who is looking at road pricing to curb car commuting, said: "All levels of government, businesses and individuals will need to be committed to achieving the goal; they will also face difficult decisions, particularly in the light of the adjustment and investment costs that will be needed to achieve this level of change. There will inevitably be winners and losers."

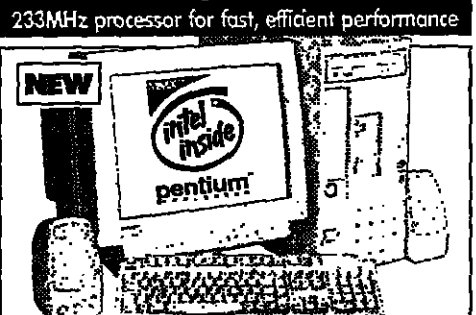
He added that measures to tackle climate change "will contribute to the delivery of several other government policy objectives, such as moving to a transport system that is less car dependent, more efficient and less environmentally damaging".

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Show of support: More than 60 women MPs from all parties came together yesterday on the steps of Church House, Westminster, to mark the close of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Government pledged £10m this summer to help beat the disease, which kills 14,000 British women each year. Photograph: Rui Xavier

## Labour acts over sleaze claims

Disciplinary action by Labour against councillors in three different areas and one MP, all of whom face "sleaze" allegations, took a step forward yesterday.

The decisions made at yesterday's meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee covered three different areas: Paisley, Glasgow and Hull.

Tommy Graham, MP for Renfrewshire West, was suspended along with a Paisley councillor, Harry Revie, in the wake of allegations made in a suicide note by the Paisley South MP, Gordon McMaster.

Mr Revie was Mr Graham's campaign manager in the general election and was involved in FCB (Security), alleged to have had links with the laundering of drug money. They also faced claims of membership rigging.

In Glasgow, seven councillors will have charges laid

against them by the party. They are already suspended over allegations that they accepted free foreign trips at the ratepayers' expense in return for their votes.

In a separate development John Black, chairman of housing in Hull, was suspended by yesterday's meeting over allegations of expenses fraud.

The drawn-out disciplinary process was exploited by nationalists in the Paisley South by-election. Three Scottish Nationalist Party councillors and one independent walked out of a Renfrewshire council committee in protest at it being chaired by Mr Revie. A Labour source said Mr Revie would be instructed to step down from the post, which carries allowances worth up to £11,000 a year.

— Fran Abrams and Stephen Goodwin

## Few willing to stand up for Tatton One

The Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges is in danger of perpetrating an injustice that would, in all other circumstances, have Labour MPs asking emergency questions, signing motions, demanding debates, and tabling backbench Bills.

But because the condemned man is Neil Hamilton, the former Tory minister and MP for Tatton, few are willing to tarnish their reputations by taking up the cause of the Tatton One.

It took Quentin Davies, the Tory MP who publicly roasted one of his own ministers, David Willetts, and Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office Minister who toasted Michael

of influencing matters. She said yesterday: "I felt I could only reach a verdict if I had the opportunity myself of asking some questions, both of Hamilton and the witnesses whom I haven't seen at all." Her view puts a new slant on blindfolded justice.

The committee will reach its verdict on the basis of the judgement delivered by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who said in July that the evidence "points compellingly to the conclusion that Mr Hamilton accepted cash payments from Mr Al-Fayed in return for lobbying services".

Sir Gordon acts as the investigating officer for the Commons committee. He believes in the guilt of the accused, but the committee has a greater duty—to test Sir Gordon's case for the prosecution. The Hamilton case is not an article of soiled clothing, to be disposed of in haste. This is a straightforward question of justice and the committee has a responsibility to examine all the evidence.

In a previous incarnation, Sir Gordon Downey was the Comptroller and Auditor General, with all the resources of the National Audit Office behind him to investigate the efficiency and incompetence of government. His reports used to go to the Commons Public Accounts Committee, chaired by the same Robert Sheldon, which invariably regurgitated his conclusions. Mr Sheldon and his colleagues should now have a different, more aggressive, relationship with Sir Gordon.

For all his evident faults, Mr Hamilton faces a life sentence of disgrace and ridicule, and the case against him should be subjected to the most thorough cross-questioning. If the MPs do not do that, no one else will. Mr Hamilton is to be found guilty—and that is the verdict the committee will reach—without a fair trial, with no appeal. The next time MPs rail against injustice, they might be reminded that justice, like charity, begins at home.

## Call to end cloak of secrecy

Government departments yesterday were accused of using "commercial confidentiality" as a cloak to keep information secret from the public in a report by the Freedom of Information Campaign. Its director, Maurice Frankel, called for sweeping changes in the code on commercial confidentiality. He said Britain should adopt one of the principles applied in the United States, that openness was part of the price of firms doing business with government.

## Voters to get more choice

Voters will be able to elect national candidates on a system of proportional representation for the first time, under a new Bill published yesterday. Under a proposed regional list system there will be one ballot paper, allowing voters to choose either a party or an independent candidate. The controversial feature is the choice of a closed party list format, where parties select candidates for each region. Those at the top of the list are allocated a seat, according to the number of votes cast.

## Tories set by-election date

The Tories today will move the writ for the Beckenham by-election to be held on 20 November, the same day as the re-run election for Winchester. The by-election was caused by the resignation of Piers Merchant.

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## Saddam expels American weapons inspectors

Iraq said yesterday it will not allow US citizens and aircraft to serve with the UN inspectors overseeing the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction. Patrick Cockburn says the surprise move opens the way for a new confrontation with the UN Security Council.

President Saddam Hussein has again opted for confrontation with the US by giving just one week for American nationals working for the UN Special Committee (Unsc) in charge of destroying Iraq's most powerful weapons to leave the country.

A statement by the ruling Revolution Command Council broadcast by Iraqi television said Iraq would also ask the UN to stop flying American reconnaissance aircraft monitoring its compliance with UN resolutions on elimination of these weapons.

The move, if it is adhered to, makes confrontation with the UN Security Council inevitable. There is no way the UN can

accept the expulsion of American members of its inspection team, which will be forced to cease work.

Earlier, the US had warned that Iraq must obey the UN resolutions on weapon destruction. President Saddam presumably thinks he has little to lose, that the US and Britain will maintain sanctions against Iraq whatever happens, and that the Unsc team is effectively controlled by the US.

It is not clear if the Iraqi leader is flexing his muscles, or if he plans a wider confrontation. He still has a powerful army with 450,000 men and 800 to 1,000 modern T-72 tanks. If he wanted he could easily re-occupy Iraqi Kurdistan or threaten Kuwait, though both would be risky ventures.

By effectively stopping the work of the weapons inspectors who have been looking for evidence and products of Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical warfare programmes for six years, President Saddam opens the way for tougher sanctions. It may effect the limited sale of Iraqi oil for food which has been allowed over the last year.

Iraq also said it would no longer recognise last Friday's Security Council warning that it would impose a travel ban on

Iraqi officials if Baghdad continues to impede the UN inspectors. It would continue to co-operate with UN inspectors "in a manner respecting Iraq's sovereignty, national security and dignity", it said.

If President Saddam hopes to divide the US from its Gulf War allies this tactic is unlikely to succeed. Russia and France, both of whom want the embargo on Iraq lifted, recently warned Baghdad it must co-operate with the arms inspectors. A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said France "underlined with the utmost firmness that Iraq would expose itself to risks if it put an end to its cooperation with Unsc".

Ever since the invasion of Kuwait in 1990 Iraq has hoped to drive wedges between the US and its allies. Controversy erupted last Friday when five Security Council members - Russia, France, China, Egypt and Kenya - abstained from the latest resolution on stopping the travel of Iraqi officials, claiming Iraq had received too little credit for progress in disarmament.

As with the invasion of Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990 President Saddam may have overplayed his hand, as the Gulf War coalition against which he fought remains basically intact.



Riding high: Helmut Kohl as 'lying' Baron Munchausen - famous for his stories of incredible adventures - created by artist Klaus Staeck for an exhibition in Düsseldorf which runs until Sunday. Photograph: AFP

## US rolls out red carpet for Jiang

The Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, was received at the White House yesterday with full military honours at the start of the US-Chinese summit.

Two years ago, Mr Jiang had refused President Bill Clinton's offer of a "working visit" to Washington and held out for a full-dress summit. A 21-gun salute and a state banquet were his reward: symbolic acceptance of China as an equal and of Jiang Zemin as undisputed leader of China and successor of Deng Xiaoping. Each stop on Mr Jiang's eight-day US tour has been stage-managed to mirror Deng's first state visit to the US in 1972.

The public mood in America is more wary. Yesterday several thousand demonstrators gathered near the White House around effigies of the two leaders to protest against a man seen by human rights campaigners as the chief beneficiary of the Tiananmen Square repression eight years ago. Overnight, Tibetan protesters and sympathisers had held a candlelit vigil outside the Chinese embassy.

Mr Jiang spent two hours in informal talks with Mr Clinton on Tuesday and an additional meeting was inserted yesterday.

The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, responding

to accusations that the US side would play down human rights and the status of Taiwan, said the talks would be "candid". "Engagement," she said, "is not the same as endorsement."

Speaking at the welcoming ceremony on the south lawn of the White House, Mr Clinton called for "closer bonds" with China, but also made oblique references to a more open Chinese market and human rights. He spoke of the need to keep pulling down barriers and looked to "a world where people are treated with dignity, are free to express their beliefs and observe their faiths". Mr Jiang stressed China's weight in the world and his own authority, claiming to "speak for 1.2 billion people".

Despite their meeting the previous evening, officially described as "very direct, personal and substantive", both the demeanour and statements of the two leaders yesterday did not indicate much personal rapport.

US officials appeared confident there would be an agreement on nuclear issues, with China pledging to halt exports of nuclear technology to Iran, and the US agreeing to lift its ban on exports of nuclear technology to China.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

## Lockerbie impasse in Libya

Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, met President Nelson Mandela yesterday and reiterated his refusal to extradite two Libyans sought by the West for the 1988 airliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The South African President, visiting Libya for the second time in a week, advised Colonel Gaddafi to support the United Nations in its efforts to "reduce tension, conflict and violence". "It is important to understand the importance of moderate language," Mr Man-

deli said in a brief speech in a sports stadium in the coastal town of Zuwarah.

Mr Mandela, who received a 21-gun salute and a noisy welcome from several thousand tribesmen and soldiers, did not specifically mention Lockerbie. A puzzled-looking Colonel Gaddafi said he accepted the advice, but at a news conference after the president's departure, he emphasised that he would not change his stand. "Mandela's advice was clear, he calls for joint efforts for peace," he said. "But

that Libya hand its sons to the United States or Britain, this... is a ridiculous demand."

Mr Mandela left Zuwarah after awarding Colonel Gaddafi the Order of Good Hope, the highest South African honour a foreigner can be awarded.

The South African President, who attended the Commonwealth summit which ended in Edinburgh on Monday, has repeatedly denied that he is seeking to mediate in the Lockerbie affair.

— Reuters, Zuwarah

## Body hunt in priest's house

Officials yesterday began emptying a second run-down house belonging to a Hungarian preacher suspected of killing six members of his family.

Specialised gear has shown suspect cavities in the houses belonging to Andras Pandi, 70; he denies murder charges in connection with the disappearance of two of his ex-wives and four of his eight children.

Human remains, including three kneecaps, were found at the weekend in another Pandi property. Police also searched a house Pandi owned near Budapest, where they discovered an urn with ashes, and pieces of unspecified flesh in two fridges.

— AP, Brussels

## Ivory poaching on increase

Elephant-poaching has increased since an environmental trade body signalled a loosening of the ivory ban this year, the International Fund for Animal Welfare said yesterday.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) decided in June that Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe could study how to sell ivory stockpiles to Japan only. But David Barrett, of the IFAW, said poaching has since increased in Zambia, Kenya, Central African Republic, Ghana and Congo.

— AP, Port Elizabeth

## Students test Serbian police

Under the sharp eye of Serbian riot police, 10,000 ethnic Albanian students held a peaceful protest yesterday to dramatise their demand to return to Pristina University, Kosovo.

It was their first demonstration since riot police violently broke up their protest on 1 October, injuring and arresting dozens of students.

Students have been boycotting the university for six years, objecting to the state-imposed curriculum which they say infringes the cultural autonomy ethnic Albanians demand.

"We are requesting what other European universities enjoy," said Albin Kurti, a student leader.

— AP, Pristina

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15/10/97



# Italy struggles to shake off the legacy of Mussolini

Seventy-five years ago, Benito Mussolini launched his March on Rome and seized power. His Fascist revolution lasted more than two decades but proved so traumatic and divisive that even now Italy has not properly come to terms with its legacy.

Our correspondent reports on the taboos, the selective amnesia and the continuing ideological battles over Il Duce.

A few years ago, an architecture student called Silvia Fadda presented a brilliant undergraduate thesis at Florence University. Her subject was town planning during the Fascist period. Normally, her examiners explained, she would have been awarded full marks cum laude. But one thing had bothered them: nowhere did she specifically distance herself from Fascism as a political project.

Asked to do so at her viva, she pointed out that her thesis was not about politics but attempted to be an objective architectural assessment of a 1930s town in Sardinia.

The chairman of the examining panel shook his head. "It's too early for a thesis of that kind," he remarked. She did not get her laude.

The Fascist period still frightens and divides Italy in strange, remarkable ways. It may be more than half a century since the end of the war, but historians, politicians, academics and newspaper columnists look back on Fascism with tremendous apprehension, ideological posturing and only a modicum of cool historical analysis.

The heirs of the anti-Fascist resistance – the left-wingers and Christian Democrats who founded the modern republic – are afraid to talk about Mussolini in any tone other than unqualified condemnation. Those who try to discuss the "good" aspects of the period are quickly tarred as apologists and neo-Fascists, which they usually are.

No truly objective account of Fascism has been written by an Italian. This week's anniversary of the March on Rome was roundly ignored by all except a small clutch of black-shirted hooligans. For a country that seems so much at ease with its own identity, in stark contrast to Germany, Italy certainly has a lot of difficult baggage to sort through.

Much of the difficulty can be explained by the way in which Fascism disintegrated. For the last two years of the war, Italy was bitterly divided between the Allied-backed Partisans and adherents of the so-called Salò Republic, the Fascist puppet state controlled by Nazi Germany. The new Italy that emerged from the wreckage of



Dressed to kill: Black-shirted Fascists cheering Mussolini's appointment as Italian Prime Minister in front of the royal palace and (right) Mussolini leading a demonstration in the capital in 1922, the year of the March on Rome in which the Fascist movement finally seized power



Photographs: Topham

the war was founded on an ideology of anti-fascism that soon permeated its way throughout Italian society.

This has ensured that the most despicable episodes of the Fascist period – the destruction of democracy, the murder of the Socialist deputy Giacomo Matteotti, the reckless colonial adventures in Ethiopia, the racial laws inspired by Hitler and the persecution of the Jews, the invasions of Albania and Greece, and so on – have remained fresh in the public memory.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL

But it has also obliterated proper debate on the evolution of Italian society in a period that saw industrialisation, urban development and growing independence from the stifling influence of the Catholic Church.

And it has painted an absurdly black-and-white picture of the final stages of the war, with the Partisans depicted as unambiguous goodies and the Salò Republicans as little more than subhuman vermin.

There has been some progress in recent years, particularly since the end of the Cold War and the break-up of the postwar Christian Democrat-led political order in the early 1990s. The PDS, heirs to the old Italian Communist Party, has for the first time admitted some of the more shameful aspects of the Partisan movement, particularly its complicity in the massacre of Italian

civilians by Tito's Yugoslav troops in the area around Trieste in 1945. When the present centre-left government took office, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Luciano Violante, made an impressive speech, saying it was time for Italians to stop viewing themselves and their families as either winners or losers in the 1943-45 civil war.

But on the bulk of Mussolini's years in power, no way has been found out of the ideological impasse. Mr Violante's predecessor as speaker, Irene Pivetti, provoked a torrent of invective in 1994 when she talked in public about the benefits Fascism had brought to women.

The mainstream press republished every paragraph of Mussolini's distinctly anti-feminist legislation on working rights for women, but did not begin to discuss how Fascism got women out of the home and the miserable black clothes encouraged by the Catholic Church, offering them their first ever opportunities to play sport and participate in public life, albeit in restricted ways.

Similarly, there has been little nuanced discussion of Fascism's architectural legacy, or big public works projects such as the extension of the railway network or the draining of the Pontine marshes outside Rome. It is rare, indeed, for an Italian to admit that, for all its horrors, Fascism did much to drag Italy into the modern world. The fact that Fascism was popular for the first 15 years is usually a matter of deep embarrassment, not an issue to be discussed and reflected on.

Part of the problem for Italian historians is technical: many

documents from the period have been destroyed or lost, so truly dispassionate judgements are often hard to make.

But present ideologies still hold tremendous sway. Denis Mack Smith, the Oxford historian whose books are venerated

in Italy as the only truly objective accounts it has of its own past, was once told that he would never have been given a job in Italy because the university system would have been too scared of his lack of ideological baggage.

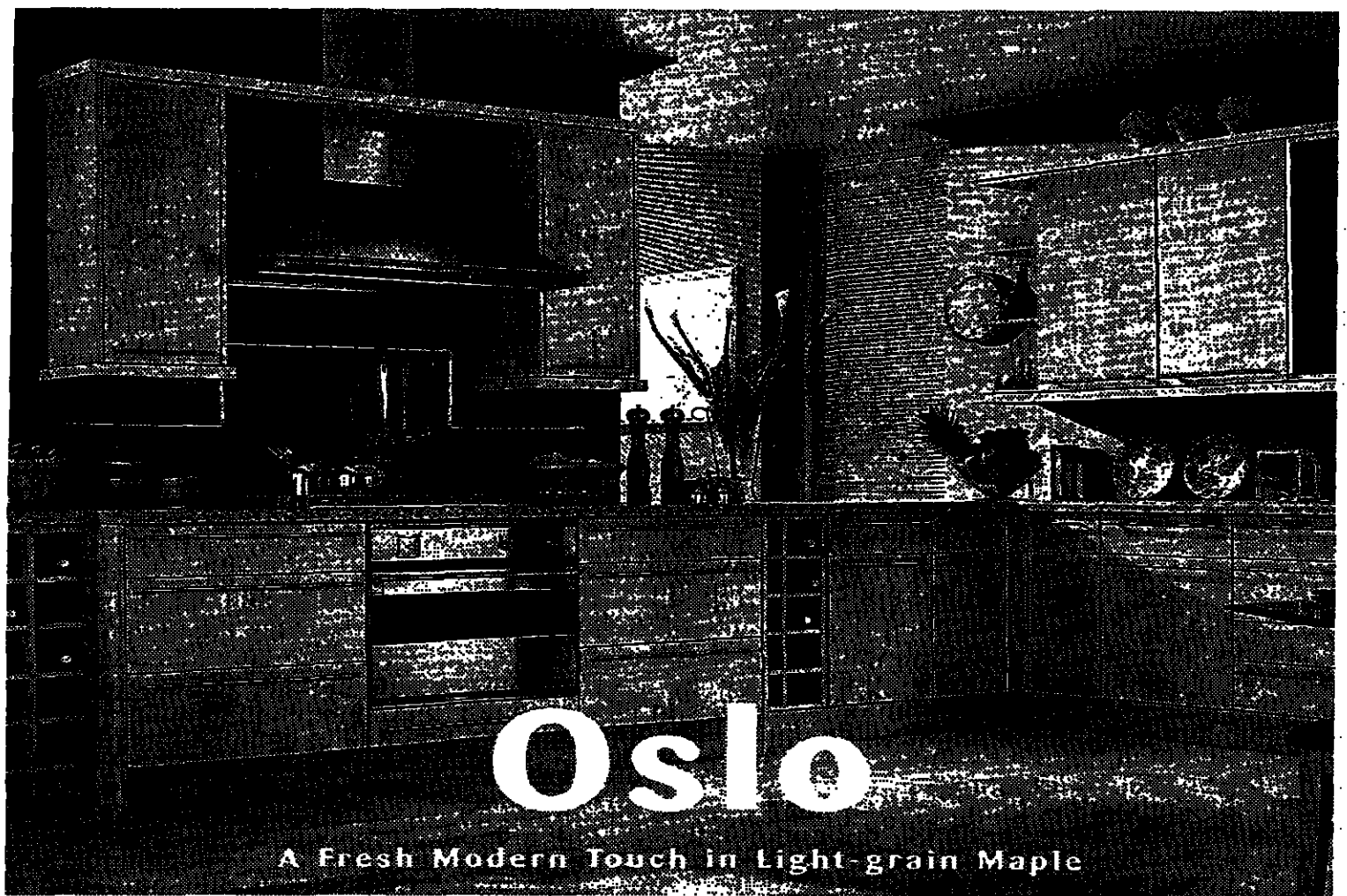
Just one Italian historian is credited with at least an attempt at objectivity over the Fascist period. Renzo De Felice, who died last year, spent three decades putting together a vast biography of Mussolini – more than 7,000 pages. De Felice was

far from ideologically pure; the left-wing academic establishment tried to denigrate him for his right-wing views. But he won respect for his dogged pursuit of factual evidence and his willingness to discuss issues down to the tiniest detail.

The result, however, is a body of work that is so convoluted that it is almost unreadable – an irony that is perhaps no accident.



Italy hasn't come to grips with Fascism in 75 years, and is unlikely to for a long time.

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IND 76

## Swiss fail to dispel doubts over Holocaust cash hoard

Swiss banks yesterday released a second list of over 14,000 dormant accounts from before 1945, this time purged of names possibly belonging to Nazi war criminals. *Rupert Cornwell* says even this move will not quell suspicions that Switzerland has yet to come fully clean over the former assets of Holocaust victims.

The second batch, far more comprehensive than the initial list of 1,872 foreign names released in July, consists of 3,700 foreign and 10,800 Swiss names, starting with Abondio and ending with Zygmunt-Haeflinger. Most striking of all, however, is how little money has been unearthed.

If the Swiss Bankers Association (SBA) is to be believed, the total sum held in the

14,500 accounts was an almost derisory 18m Swiss francs (\$12.5m), bringing the grand total held in pre-1945 dormant accounts revealed thus far to around SFr80m (\$55m) – a far cry from the \$7bn which some Jewish groups claimed was being deliberately hoarded by the major Swiss banks.

Releasing the list on the Internet (<http://www.dormantaccounts.ch>) and in banks across Switzerland, the association said only 3 per cent of the accounts contained more than 1,000 francs (\$690), and insisted that the "vast majority" of dormant assets from before 1945 had now been identified.

But the latest disclosures may not quell the controversy, nor even head off fresh sanctions and boycotts threatening them in the US. Simultaneously, Jean Ziegler, the Swiss deputy and unrelenting critic of Swiss banking habits, said the step was merely an exercise in hypocrisy. "The real question is what happened to the billions of Swiss francs that

disappeared here in the 1940s and 1950s," he declared.

Some light may be thrown on that question – and on the broader issue of what happened to the private fortunes amassed by the élite of the Third Reich – by the conference on Nazi gold which is to be held in London later this year. In the meantime, however, the Swiss banks are increasingly frustrated and irritated at how little appreciation they have gained for their efforts to find and return the contents of Holocaust accounts to their rightful owners, and for their co-operation with Jewish advocacy groups.

According to SBA officials, the banks removed "hundreds" of names of possible Nazi war criminals from the lists after cross-checking with records held by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles. This follows the embarrassment of July's first list, when the names of several leading Nazis appeared alongside those of their victims.

## She wouldn't be seen dead with the Spice Girls

She's virtually perfect; a pneumatic babe whose girlpower is Uzi-shaped. But if she's your ideal woman, says Ann Treneman, you really ought to get out more often.

Lara Croft is the ultimate mystery woman. She doesn't give interviews and evidently has trouble even holding a conversation. They say this is because she is a computer game character – the star of the phenomenally successful Tomb Raider – and her sole purpose is to run around the small screen killing baddies and rescuing archaeological treasure. Oh sure! And Mickey Mouse is just another rodent in red shorts.

Lara Croft may have started off small and virtual but now she is a larger-than-life sex goddess, even to people who have never played the game. Her boobs alone (not to mention together) have inspired thousands of slobbering Internet comments and when they tire of that there is always her bum. Over the past months she's been fêted on the cover of *The Face* and condemned by a university lecturer as a sexist influence on the young. This week she is named in a "cutting edge" survey in *Select* magazine

as one of the 100 most important people in popular culture – and she can only get bigger. Tomb Raider II is released on 21 November and the marketing hype has begun.

So who is this woman in virtual hot pants, T-shirt and thigh-strapped pistols? Lara, daughter of Lord and Lady Henshingly Croft, was raised an aristocrat and was all set to marry the Earl of Farringdon when disaster struck in the form of a plane crash over the Himalayas. Her parents die (instantly, natch) and Lara spends the next two weeks battling to stay alive. Over the next few years she becomes an expert on ancient civilisations, specialising in major archaeological finds. "Of course," says Susie Hamilton, publicist for Core Design, "Tomb Raider was her lucky break." The game, involving winding and wading through caves and pools in search of lost treasure, has sold two million copies and Tomb Raider II could do up to twice that. Not many archaeology types can boast of such popularity and it has been whispered that Lara's appeal may lie elsewhere.

"Lara's popularity comes down to two words. And the second one is 'jugs'," says Stuart Campbell of games magazine *Edge*. I say to Susie that Lara

does seem to be rather, well, top heavy. "Well, she really began as a male fantasy," says Susie.

It was Toby Gard, then a 21-year-old computer artist at Core, who came up with the idea of having a female character in the company's fledgling pyramid game.

He has said the bustline was a slip of the mouse. "I wanted to expand them 50 per cent and then – whoops, 150 per cent. Darn." But the original drawings that hang on the walls at Core Design show that she remains pretty much as conceived. Jeremy says cartoons are always out of proportion. "See her head is big too," he notes. Strangely, though, but none of the 30-odd dedicated Lara Croft websites have much to say about her head size.

But many do pant over the prospect that there is a secret room in the game in which Lara is naked. This is not so but many "Nude Raider" sites have gone ahead and stripped her anyway.

This sort of thing alarms Dr Ken Parsons, a sociology lecturer at the Manchester Metropolitan University who studied the computer game habits of 61 teenagers. He says we should be worried both about the propensity for children to get hooked on playing such games as well as their content. "Lara Croft is a gun-wielding, baddie-blasting sex symbol whose large breasts are designed to be out of proportion to the rest of her body," he says. "There is a real danger that these images will be taken on board." He believes Tomb Raider links female sexuality and violence. "If we have any morals, we should be concerned," he says.

The folks at Core are happily unconcerned. "It's pathetic. Why don't they go and study something else?" says Jeremy. "I've got four daughters and I think there are far worse things on TV and in cartoons." Here, in deepest Derby, Lara is among friends and they are convinced players identify with her because she is female. "There's no doubt that Lara is as tough

as old boots but she's still got an innocence. There is something about her that makes people want to look after her. When you are controlling her and following her around, you really feel for her. You really do not want her to die," says Susie.

But die she must, and regularly, in the weeks and months it can take to play through the games. I watch as Heather Gibson – one of the seven-strong team that controls Lara at Core – plays the new game for 10 minutes or so and Lara dies

about seven times. This despite making constant trips to the armoury to select her girthy weapon of choice. M16, Uzi, harpoon gun or grenade launcher? "Dead again!" says Heather as our heroine is mauled by sharks. Lara's sole

comment is a grunt.

Toby Gard has left Core Design and 23-year-old Stuart Atkinson now animates Lara. "I've curved her up a bit. There are more polygons. And she's got a dynamic ponytail this time," he says. He's given her

two new outfits – cut-off wetsuit and flying jacket – and says it is inconceivable that Lara would ever appear naked. "Besides, if we did do her naked, then she would just be a wire frame," says Heather.

Stuart finds it bizarre that people think Lara is real. "It's weird. They ask me things like 'Do you get along with her?' I mean, she is not real!" Susie Hamilton also complains. "Lara can be a real pain in the ass because people treat her like she is a real person. They ask questions like 'What's her favourite band?' and 'What does she do in her spare time?' I mean, why do they want to know this? Can't they make it up for themselves?"

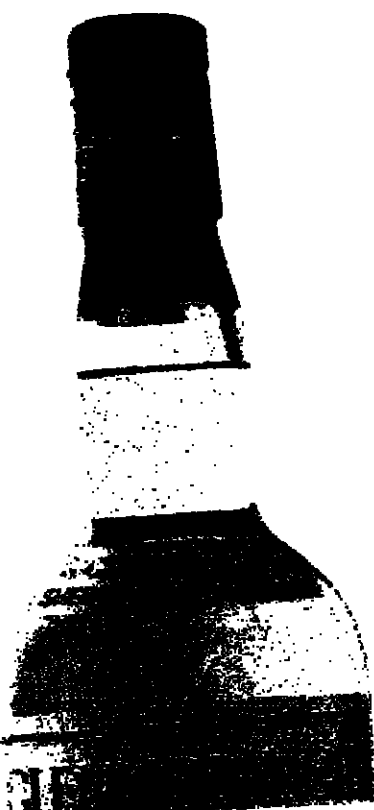
And yet. And yet. It seems to me that Susie also sometimes refers to Lara as if she were real. As does almost everyone else. Lara is, after all, a fantasy and she can be whatever you want her to be. The team sees her as one of them – young, independent, modern. She has girlpower, they say, but not the official variety. "She wouldn't be seen dead with the Spice Girls," says Heather. "She's not selling sex. She's just out to raid tombs I'm afraid."

"What we don't do is sell Lara out," says Jeremy. "We could have branded her clothing a thousand times but we haven't. They say that Lara should do a single. But Lara Croft is not a pop singer. They've wanted Lara to go on to chat shows. But she cannot because she doesn't exist!"

But just as real life celebrities must go virtual these days, so virtual celebrities must go real. Hollywood seems the next logical step. "We are currently having discussions with movie companies in the States," says Jeremy. "That is going to be the fun one. Once she hits the big screen, Lara exists. She is going to have a character, a personality and she's going to speak. So she is no longer just in people's minds. That's when she comes alive." And that will give them even more to talk about on the Internet.

## Citric fruit and nuts with a layer of honeycomb

in the background followed after a moment by vanilla and caramel. Full bodied, even and creamy, with a subdued sweet flavour at the outset and a light and dry finish.



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## Why are my boyfriend's parents refusing to meet me?

### VIRGINIA IRONSIDE



#### DILEMMAS

Amy's been going out with John for two years but his mother and stepfather have refused to meet her except for once – a cold handshake. Amy's parents like him, and she gets on with his brothers and sisters and can't think of a reason except that she's from a working-class background. Why is John's mother like this and what can Amy do?

No one can hate anyone without meeting them, and a cold handshake isn't grounds for dislike. So, before Amy gets carried away and takes all this too personally, perhaps she should reassess the whole situation.

Is it really John's parents who refuse to meet her – or does John himself play a more sinister role in it all? She says she's barred from Christmas and weddings, but why hasn't John put his foot down and said that unless she's invited he won't come himself? It sounds as if John has great uncertainties about the relationship and doesn't want Amy to meet his parents until he's really sure himself. Being asked home to meet mum is quite a big deal in any relationship – indeed, it's a very committing move and sometimes is even a direct precursor to getting engaged.

Amy has no idea of the history of all this, either. Perhaps John's last girlfriend was a walking nightmare and his parents can't stand the idea of meeting any more. Perhaps John's last girlfriend was a complete saint and their loyalties are still with her, the girl they feel he really ought to have married. Or perhaps John's mum is extremely possessive about her little boy and has a real block about meeting anyone he's involved with because it makes her fear that she will lose him.

As for class. Every class has its own ridiculous prejudices and it's quite possible if Amy herself were to go out with a hippy gypsy, her own parents might find it pretty difficult to accept him. Even I, a middle-class liberal, have my own prejudices about certain types of people. If my son were to bring home a prostitute and announce he was in love (or even,

come to that, a Tory councillor) I would have quite a lot of trouble trying to find the inner diamond, so prejudiced would I be about the outer shell. I agree, a working class student sounds pretty tame, but if John's parents have been indoctrinated with class prejudice from an early age it's not so easy for them to break the habits of a lifetime even if we all agree that they should do their damndest.

Since they have reached an impasse, could Amy not make the first move and invite them both over for dinner, using the old trick of "come any day during November" so they can't wriggle out of it on the grounds they are busy?

In the letter she could say how much she'd like to meet them and what nice things she's heard about them from John. At least she would get some response and, even if they refuse, an invitation and a few flattering remarks can do nothing but start to melt their icy exterior.

By doing this, she would also be testing out her boyfriend's reaction. If he were strongly against the idea, she'd know that he was more involved in this stand-off than he admits. If he were game, then maybe he might add his signature to the invitation as well. His parents would find it far harder to refuse a joint invitation than one from Amy alone.

Amy needs to get herself out of a passive, victim-like role and seize a bit of power for herself by using her own initiative. She may be a student and much younger than John's parents, but she's no longer a child and it sounds as if she is far more mature than both John's mother and step-father put together.

### WHAT READERS SAY

#### Don't wait for your boyfriend to ditch you

Seven years ago I met a man from a completely different social background to mine. He was an old Etonian with old money, and I was (and still am) a working class woman with a regional accent.

We got on fine and fell in love. But then it became obvious that a grading system operated within the relationship – I was taken on B-list functions such as minor receptions and country dinner parties, but not A-list functions such as Ascot, town dinner parties and embassy receptions.

When, inevitably, he ditched me for someone else (he met her at an A-list reception) I was devastated and completely fell apart, blaming myself for being so 'gauche' and losing my confidence and self-esteem.

I realise now, nearly four years on, how ridiculous I was, complying with a snobbish man who clearly didn't deserve me.

Don't wait for John to ditch

you in favour of a girl who his mother approves of, go out and get a life now!  
*Bridget Syms*

#### It's important that your boyfriend stands by you

I faced a similar problem with my boyfriend's parents and dreaded meeting them because of the different class backgrounds, being a single parent and eight years older!

They had already voiced their concerns before meeting me, so I was lucky in that I knew what to expect. Fortunately, because I had the full support of my boyfriend, the meeting went well and we're now engaged to be married.

If your relationship is going to survive, it is important for your boyfriend to be honest and open with you, and that he stands by you and tells his parents that they risk losing him if they do not make an effort meeting you.

Perhaps, as you get on well with his brothers and sisters, you could ask one of them if they have ever experienced

similar problems. If it is, as you suspect, because you come from a working class background, then his parents aren't even worth bothering with and you should just continue getting on with the rest of your life and not give them a second thought.

They, including your boyfriend (by the sounds of it) have the problem, not you.  
*Gloria Wood, Essex*

#### Your boyfriend's mother has to let her son go

Mothers start off being the most important woman in their son's life, and they like to stay that way. It is probably nothing more than jealousy that is stopping John's mother from being more friendly. She is just trying to protect her baby.

I'm more worried about John's behaviour. By still playing Mummy's boy he's colluding with his mother's bad behaviour.  
*Christopher Fox, Sussex*

### NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

My best friend has got very excited, because she went out with a new man the other night and when they were both drunk she slept with him.

She's practically making marriage plans and can't wait for him to ring, but

I've since heard he has told a male friend of his that he thought it was all very funny and that he was dragged to bed by her. Clearly he has no interest in her at all, and just used her. Should I tell her what I know? *Iris*

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send personal experiences or comments to me at the following address:

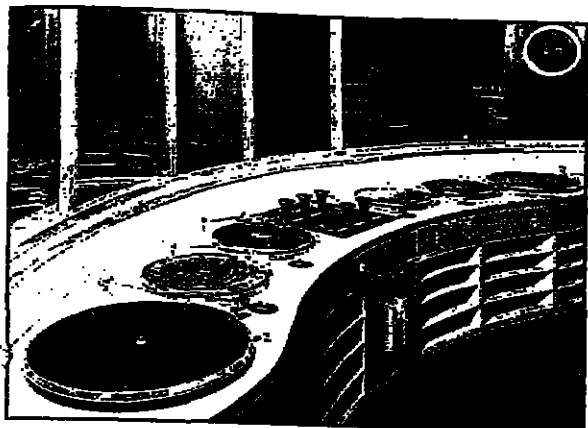
Features Department, *The Independent*

1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182), to arrive by next Tuesday morning at the latest.

If you have any dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.



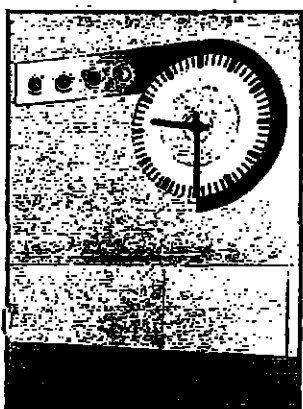
# Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Broadcasting House



**As part of its 75th anniversary celebrations the BBC invites the public to Portland Place to enjoy the 'BBC Experience'. Shame about the name, but there's no shame about the building. Nonie Niesewand is your guide**

Broadcasting House first hove into view in 1932, stern end looming from the peninsula behind All Souls Church in Portland Place. The board of governors climbed the scaffolding to inspect *Ariel*, Eric Gill's sprightly sculpture accompanying Prospero above the main entrance. Having pronounced him "uncommonly well hung," they commanded that inches be trimmed. The model for *Ariel*, actor Lesley French, now in his seventies, admits in next Friday night's *One Foot in the Past*, "I could strip off in those days but I wouldn't bother now."

The BBC commissioned the sculptures as a visual pun on operas, as well as liking the notion of a free spirit to be liberated by Prospero, but Gill was not impressed, writing to his



brother Cecil: "Comic, though, the BBC kidding itself that it may be likened to a prince putting the world to rights and its bally apparatus likened to a sort of heavenly snipe."

In truth, the building com-  
missioned from Lieutenant

Colonel Val Meyer – who never built anything else and whose obituary described him as a flower painter – was never popular with anyone other than the architectural press. Predictably, there was a compromise between affirming the new technology and maintaining relations with its Adam neighbours. Rules about blocking their light meant that a mansard roof pinched in from the sixth floor. The studios are in a brick core ringed acoustically by the offices and services. Eight storeys high, with three storeys below ground, the building was hailed by *Architectural Review* in 1932 as “something more than a mere block of offices enclosing a sound factory. Like the Tower of London itself, it becomes a national monument.”

There was plenty to celebrate in the new building. The world's first purpose-built broadcasting house; the fastest lifts in London; an organ wired for sound; air-conditioned offices for 700. Too bad about the Bakerloo line rumbling beneath and the fact that the concert hall was too small for the 132-piece orchestra and acoustically sound for only 30-40 players.

Even before it opened Lord Reith, the Director-General, complained about the light, and criticised the small size of the window panes. An entry in Pevsner endorses this reservation: "A specially unfortunate feature is the windows of the Georgian shape. They make the grimness of the sheer stone walls twice as painful." Unfair, as anyone looking at the building now lit up again at night after the Queen's inauguration can appreciate.

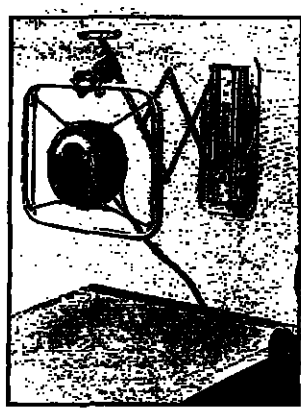
But the interiors were given rave reviews. A 28-year-old Australian called Raymond McGrath who designed a club, the Finella, at Caius College in Cambridge, landed the commission to design everything from the clock outside every studio to the wall-mounted ashtrays. Wedge-shaped doors with hexagonal lozenge-shaped

windows and stairs like something out of a Busby Berkeley musical are his speciality together with the bacilli ziggurats and Grecian key patterns in the foyer. He slinkily fitted with chrome and leather the Vaudeville studio in the basement which became the War Control Room after it was moved from the top floor at the start of the Second World War.

All the studios were themed to make broadcasters feel at ease. Wells Coates rounded the gramophone studios like record sets, Serge Chermayeff put a spin on the orchestra set, the God-slot was recorded in a studio done up like a church by Edward Maufe which so attracted speakers that French lessons were also conducted there. Chat shows either took place in a customised oak-panelled library or in cosy little sitting rooms with striped rugs and three-piece suites, very *Brave New World* (which Aldous Huxley published in the same year).

Even the acerbic architecture critic Robert Byron ap-

proved the interior: "How well that fruit will bear the test of time, and changing fashions remains to be seen, but very well is the probable answer." He was wrong. Little remains of McGrath's original interiors except



the entrance hall, clocks, and the door furniture. Chermayeff's orchestra set remains as the theatre for drama, but as microphones downsized and control consoles for each studio became necessary, the interiors changed.

By the Forties, what the engineers hadn't replaced a 500lb delayed-action time bomb wiped out during the war. There were other domesticallly induced disasters: the architect Val Meyer and designer Ray McGrath could never agree about the Cosell Chamber where the board of governors still meets on the third floor. Neither got the upper hand so neither scheme prevailed. That indifference meant the room is frozen in time with its panelling and high windows and the august portraits of previous Director Generals frozen on the walls. Meanwhile the studios are impersonal cells, with banks of equipment in adjoining booths beyond the viewing panel.

Visitors to "the BBC experience" can make their own programmes; cut *Desert Island Discs* with Sue Lawley on CD-Rom, bang coconuts together for horses' hooves in a scripted Western or push corks out of bicycle pumps to simulate champagne. You can script a five-minute saga with

the Archers, record your own commentary over a screened tennis match, the Grand National, golf or snooker, play weather forecaster with maps of the British Isles showing ice-cream cones raining down, sound-mix music, or hit the Website for Radio 1. You can learn how play a tune using your teeth and a lead pencil. And marvel at the miniaturisation which makes TV cameras so small they fit inside Beefeaters' helmets, cricket stumps and snooker pockets.

But Damon Albarn of Blur has the most ringing words. "If it wasn't for Radio 1, let's face it, there would be no Brit-pop." It doesn't bear thinking about. Damon.

*The BBC Experience opens seven days a week, 9.30am-5.30pm. Tickets cost £5.75 for adults, £4 for children and £4.35 concessions. Booking: 0870 603 0304.*

*'One Foot in Broadcasting House', presented by Patrick Wright, will be screened on BBC 2 on Friday, 7 November, at 8pm.*

# The new Battle of Trafalgar

**Parliament Square,  
Trafalgar Square –  
world-class spaces,  
world-class snarl-ups.  
Westminster Council  
has a cunning plan.**

London's great squares are tragically clogged. Most of them have become little more than gigantic traffic roundabouts. Unlike trams and railways – which promote the centrality of the city – the car, with its awkward need for parking space and tendency to jam up streets, contributes to making city life noisy, polluted and congested. The concern for London's town planners, as it is in inner cities the world over, is to accommodate human beings as well as vehicular traffic.

**"World Squares For All"** is Westminster Council's attempt to create spatial unity and keep traffic and tourists going with the flow in London. They have commissioned a master plan from Norman Foster and Associates to find new ways of coping with Trafalgar Square, Parliament Square, Whitehall, Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster.

The project's name—World Squares for All—has the global reach of a Smersh plot. But then as Westminster Council says, the study area constitutes the heart of Government in the United Kingdom besides being one of only two World Heritage sites in London. They say that “urban design in the public realm must reflect the international importance of the existing historic townscape and be designed to complement and enhance existing street furniture”.

This masterplan study costs £250,000. Half has been provided by the study partners (English Heritage, London Transport, the Royal Parks, the Traffic Director for London, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) and the private sector, with £125,000 from the Heritage

*World Squares for All is on show to the public November 6-8, 8am-8pm at the Royal United Service Institute in Whitehall, London SW1.*

standstill. Now the study will be completed in March next year.

Meanwhile the public is invited to give their opinion of the first stage. There are four concepts that seek to improve the study area, backed up by weighty background information on traffic and pedestrian movement. The opinions of area-users have been canvassed, and historical research on the area has been as painstakingly compiled as any forensic scientist's.

Special attention has been paid to sight lines, visual focal points, disabled users, reduced journey times for London Transport buses, pedestrian and cyclist ways, traffic flow for the Houses of Parliament, and "to take note of taxis". Pedestrianising Trafalgar Square could cause jams along the A40, let alone road rage in Marylebone so don't wait for an ear-bashing from your cab driver before finding out how they plan to reduce the impact on the rest of the city.

One of the constraints about town planning in the 21st century is the idea that a quarter-mile is the maximum distance that the average person will walk to get somewhere on a routine basis. Beyond the quarter mile, people either seek a form of transport or don't bother going. The other constraint is the number of tourists.

Peculiar to the three squares are access to popular schools, Parliament and the State processions, Scotland Yard and the role that Trafalgar Square has taken as a centrifugal force in traffic direction. Like a robot, it has controlled traffic in all directions. The study offers the opportunity to review how the conflicting pressures of traffic and visitors can be resolved with the need to improve the quality of the spaces and provide good public transport access. Now these world squares are to be returned to the public realm as places of beauty and repose.

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## Television – a force for good in our nation's prisons



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Prison, eh? Nice cosy beds, good food, gyms, libraries... More like Butlins than a punishment. It'll be colour TV next, you mark my word. Prison? Pah.

And, as we report this morning, it almost certainly will be colour television next. The right-wing tabloids will be in full cry, no doubt, as will some backbenchers. Michael Howard will lose no opportunity to remind us that he rejected the idea, and to mock Jack "tough on crime" Straw for his wet liberalism in this regard.

Nor will the reaction be confined to politicians and editorialists. The verb "to cosser" will be vigorously conjugated in the sang bars and Happy Eaters of the nation. Many people will be genuinely outraged at the easy time thuggish and amoral prisoners seem to have in British jails. There will be half-jocular references to the advantages of Islamic justice and US chain-gangs. This is what the ire-for-hire commentators will say, and millions of decent, ordinary people will agree. So, too,

no doubt, will many indecent and extraordinary people. It is a fundamental social trait to want to see the guilty suffer. All cultures provide for punishment and we are a very rare example in human history of a culture which doesn't kill at least some of its criminals. Here, and now, the impulse for retribution means support for tough and unpleasant prison conditions. If they are not to hang, or go hungry, then they should at least squirm a little – be bored and uncomfortable, not leisured and entertained.

We are as vindictive as anyone else. But we also think it would be mad for Mr Straw not to proceed with the proposal to unleash the BBC and commercial TV companies on the prison population. It is the right thing pragmatically and in principle too.

Why? First, because of what British prisons are like. In the main, they are grossly overcrowded, very uncomfortable already and constant hives of crime-

behind-bars. Men who are left with nothing to do, many of them being illiterate, currently amuse themselves with drugs, sex, constant little vendettas and a little light violence. Because of overcrowding, they spend more and more time in their cells. Is "Have We Got News for You", or "Casualty" or "Brookside" really a worse alternative than cannabis and recreational buggery? Furthermore, increasingly, television means communication with the rest of us, albeit one-way communication. For the modern citizen, TV is the ubiquitous window on society, a prime source of thinking and information. It shapes us. Now, granted, prisoners are physically cut off from society. But that is as much for our safety as for their punishment. Assuming that we hold to the idea of rehabilitation and the return of prisoners to ordinary life after their sentences, then cutting them off from social trends, thinking, entertainment and news is pointless, even stupid. Prisoners who watch television for

hours are not only likelier to be easier to guard and oversee; they are also likely to end up more like the rest of us.

The second reason we approve of television in jails is that inmates would not be given them free, but would have to pay for the privilege, using money earned inside jail. TVs would be removed for bad behaviour. Prison is such a bizarre and alienating environment that anything which keeps inmates in touch with ordinary life is useful; earning and paying is useful because it increases, however marginally, responsibility. It is what prisoners will quickly have to learn to do outside.

... This is, in short, a proposal which is sensible in security terms, mildly rehabilitative and – yes – humane. We don't see how driving people mad with boredom is going to make them better on release.

So this is neither inherently "liberal" or "conservative", merely sensible. It is on all fours with other important recent proposals from the Home Office, such as the

decision to extend the scheme whereby young villains are brought face to face with their victims. The Home Secretary needs to bust the old thinking on penal policy which makes all of us either little Michael Howards or little Lord Longfords. And indeed, the early evidence is that Mr Straw is a rather more flexible and lateral-thinker than Home Secretary than his image suggests.

He is tough, no doubt. But toughness does not consist in asking oneself what the right-wing press would like you to do, and then eagerly doing it – as some Tory home secretaries did. Tough means doing the right thing – and then winning the public around. Whether the issue is sentencing, tagging, "name and shame" or prison conditions, we hope that Mr Straw will ask himself constantly one simple question – Will this make the public safer or not? – and let the rest go hang. Or, in this day and age, go watch telly in a small and airless room.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## LETTERS

### Britain and EMU

Sir: If only life was as easy as Andrew Marr makes it seem ("Tony and Gordon cast their magic spell over the Emu debate", 29 October). The Chancellor's statement did settle one question and that is of the timing of any referendum but it did so in a negative way by ruling it out during this Parliament. This leaves both an economic and a political question open.

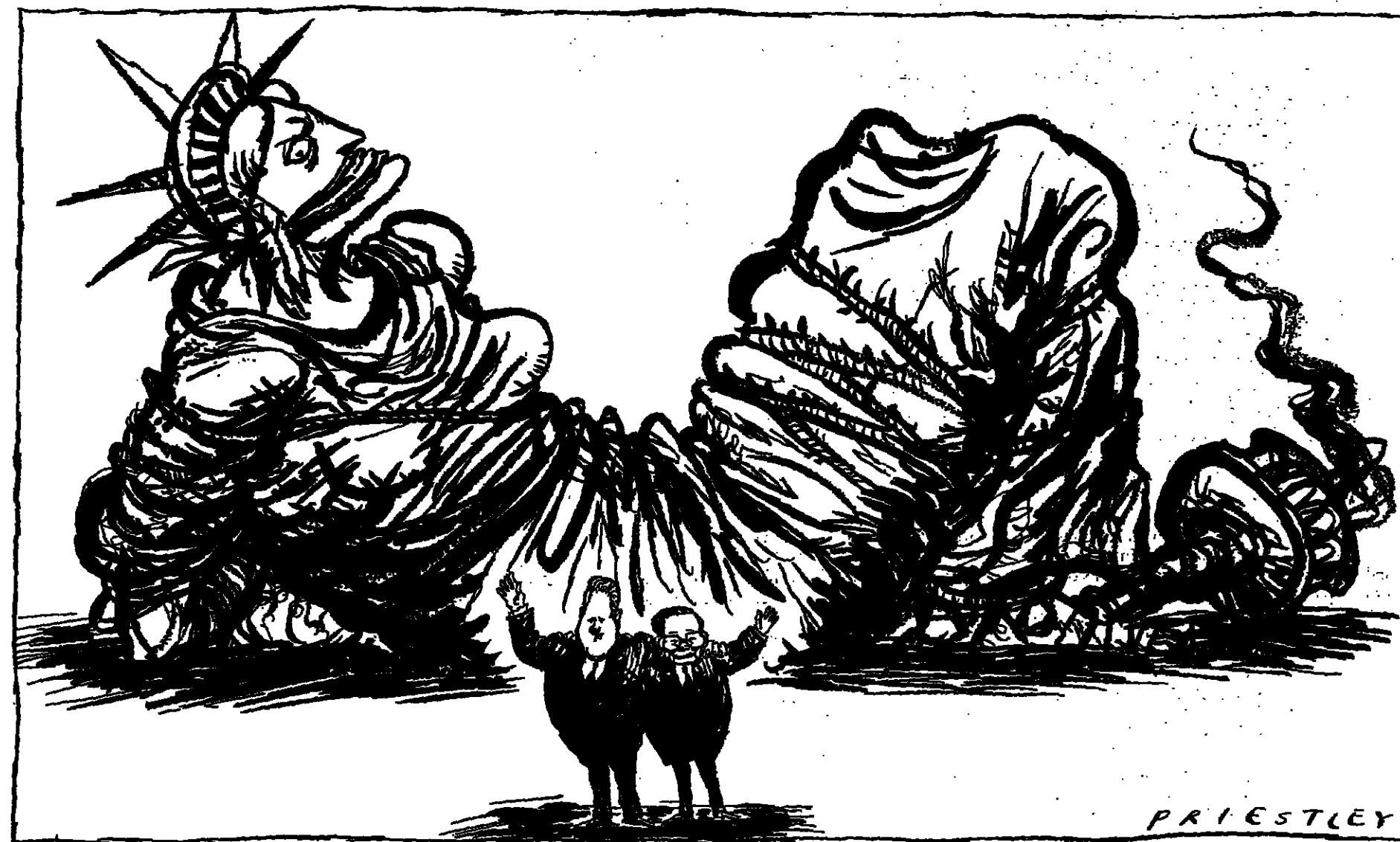
Of the Chancellor's five "tests", only one is quantifiable and that concerns the criteria for cyclical convergence. What the Chancellor needs to clarify is the measures he intends to use to satisfy himself that the UK economy is "in cync" with those of the euro members. Will the Treasury use short-term or long-term interest rates, real or nominal, alone or with some measure of output gap to arrive at their judgement about convergence? Ambiguity on these matters is undesirable.

The Chancellor's statement presumes a Labour victory at the next election which I certainly hope will come about. But the experience of Labour majorities of 1945 and of 1966 is that they can shrink quite drastically. If the Government are not willing to risk a referendum with a majority of 179, what hope can one have of boldness with a majority of, say, 30?

Entry in the first wave was never desirable, let alone feasible. Indeed a delay in the launch itself would benefit everyone. But given that the euro will go ahead, it would have been possible to separate the decision in principle to enter from the question of the date at which to enter, which is technical. A referendum could have been held on the question of the principle of entry during the Presidency and, in my opinion, could have been won.

This would have reassured the markets and reaped benefits in terms of a lower exchange rate and some narrowing of the interest rate differential. In choosing to reject this option, clarity may have been bought at the cost of a tricky period of economic management during the remainder of this Parliament. Lord DESAI  
House of Lords  
London SW1

Sir: Your leading article (28 October) is right to comment on



the lack of democratic vigour (or should it be rigour) in the European Union.

Surely the geography and populations of France and Germany make it inevitable that the future of the EU will be dominated by a Franco-German axis with France as the junior partner and that any conceivable decision-making system means that we will never be able to force a British view to prevail against a Franco-German one.

This might not be worrying if our legal, cultural and political traditions were the same, but they are not and sadly it shows in recent history. Should we tie ourselves even closer to an organisation dominated by a country whose lack of democratic vigour let it precipitate the major international tragedies of this century and whose politicians still affect a public indifference to their electors which would not be tolerated here?

The Emu (and indeed the whole EU) question is not whether we want to save a bit on our foreign holidays but whether we wish to embrace political traditions which have served their own countries so badly in the recent past. JOHN PARFITT  
Painswick, Gloucestershire

### Summerhill school

Sir: Summerhill school ("Progressive school faces closure after inspectors call", 27 October) has a long tradition of offering an alternative to mainstream education and is a model for educators all over the world.

There are many different ways of educating children and perhaps the most damaging aspect of the educational reforms of the last 18 years, which are being continued by the present Government, is the drive towards uniformity and centralisation.

In the Government's effort to raise educational standards they could do far worse than look at the very diverse and largely successful alternatives which are springing up all over the UK as growing numbers of parents become disenchanted with the education system. These schools put children at the centre of their enterprise and this, ultimately, is what parents want.

FIONA CARNIE  
National Co-ordinator  
Human Scale Education  
Bath

Sir: A S Neill once said that "you can't inspect happiness". His words seem especially apt today, given the blinkered attitude shown towards Summerhill school by the inspectors from Ofsted (Comment, 28 October).

Fifty years ago the officials were more understanding. When I was researching Neill's

life, John Blackie, one of two inspectors who visited Summerhill in 1949, told me that he thought it a very happy place. Significantly, he had had a note from the Ministry of Education prior to his visit asking him to "bear in mind the particular difficulties and the particular nature of the school".

His final report shows that he did so. "The children may lack here and there some of the conventions of manners, but their friendliness, ease and naturalness, and their total lack of shyness and self-consciousness, made them very easy and pleasant people to get on with". He concluded that, even though the academic side was not flourishing, the system at Summerhill encouraged "initiative, responsibility and integrity".

Obviously no note was forthcoming from the DFEE this time round. JONATHAN CROALL  
London SW13

### Turkish intransigence

Sir: The news that our Government intends to invite Turkey to a conference for countries which hope to become members of the European Union is disgraceful (report, 27 October).

Turkey is not, except for the single city of Istanbul, in Europe. Modern Turkey's attempts at democracy, though they have been gallant, have not been successful. Turkey's human rights record is appalling, from the expulsion of the Greeks and the (still denied) massacre of the Armenians one lifetime ago, via the slaughter of prisoners in Cyprus in 1975, to the present persecution of the Kurds both inside Turkey and abroad.

But more important for the future than all that: Turkey is among the great international law-breakers of the world. For 27 years without intermission UN resolutions have been pour-

ing forth ordering it to vacate Northern Cyprus. For 27 years too, negotiator after negotiator from the UN has given up in despair at Turkey's intransigence.

LORD KENNEDY  
House of Lords  
London SW1

### Asylum seekers

Sir: If the Home Secretary wishes to take swift and decisive action to alleviate the pressure under which the UK asylum system is operating (report, 28 October), he would do well to tackle the backlog of 55,000 cases waiting for initial determination and 22,000 cases waiting for appeal.

It is that backlog, not the arrival of Roma in Dover, which makes the system unable to deal fairly and effectively with the current asylum claims.

ZELAH SENIOR  
Justice  
London EC4

### Religious education

Sir: I am deeply opposed to the use of my taxes to fund sectarian schools, of whatever stamp ("In defence of Islamophobia", 23 October). But that doesn't mean that sects that desire to open or maintain schools promoting their beliefs shouldn't be able to. It's called freedom. Just let them pay for their own schools themselves, with the help of parental fees and other contributions by sympathisers.

Religious people who want to segregate their children from the mainstream should put their money where their prayers are, and leave the rest of us – the vast majority, I would hope – to fund, through our taxes, schools we approve of, where the divisiveness and superstitions of sectarianism are left at home. LYNN REID BANKS  
Beaminster, Dorset

Sir: Sumiya Mann (Letters, 28 October), in her Islamic Studies classes, encourages the girls "to challenge the assumptions of their religion". Given the Islamic penalty for apostasy, we can only hope she fails. RICHARD DAWKINS  
Oxford

### Bomber Harris

Sir: For many years Bomber Harris has been vilified for the war-time policy of saturation bombing. Professor Richard Overy now seeks to pin the "blame" on Sir Charles Portal (report, 23 October). It is assumed that the policy itself was wrong.

If the saturation bombing policy shortened the war by a mere four weeks, it probably saved more lives than it cost. I feel sure that those in occupied France, Holland, the Channel Islands, etc, and perhaps even in Germany itself, approved of the policy as much as I do. DAVID MARKS  
London W13

### Law-breaking mums

Sir: Your article "Mum took drugs – but should she tell the kids?" (28 October) missed one fundamental issue. How do you explain to your children that it is okay to pick and choose those laws that you obey and those you don't? GRAHAM EVANS  
Northampton

## Supermarkets, quizmasters, eggs and tapestries: a brief history of mistakes



MILES KINGTON

Last July I wrote in an article the phrase, "As sure as eggs is eggs", and then I paused. I hesitated at the thought of writing such a cliché. I felt sure I could do better. So I gave myself the challenge of creating a new cliché and came up with the alternative phrase, "As sure as eggs come in boxes of six". A day or two later I got a letter from a Mr Gibbons of Leeds in Yorkshire, saying: "I read your article and I am afraid to say you're wrong – eggs do not always only come in boxes of six. I regularly get my eggs in boxes of 10 at my local Netto supermarket."

I thus learnt two new things at a stroke: one, that eggs come in metrically inspired boxes, and two, that there is a supermarket I have never heard of. I used to think that all supermarkets were household names like Asda and Sainsbury, but visits to Scotland, where I discovered local chains like Wm Low, have persuaded me

otherwise. Indeed, since then I have discovered supermarkets which are not even chains but one-off stores, like Stan's Superstore in Gobowen and one in Craven Arms, Salop, called something like Harry Martin, which was described to me by a local as a shop without which Shropshire could hardly function.

But what I have learnt above all is that my readers collectively know a lot more than I do, and having stored a pedigree pile of letters from them I propose to let loose today their communal wisdom, starting with Mrs Violet Holmes of Liverpool who responded to my plea for examples of quizmasters' mistakes with this fruity one.

"On the TV quiz programme *Blockbusters*, the chairman Bob Holness once asked for the name of the rebel faction at the time of the Spanish Civil War. The schoolboy questioned gave the correct answer – the Falange – but made the mistake

of pronouncing it in perfect Spanish as 'fal-lan-hay'. Bob said, 'I'm sorry, the correct word is Falanji.' I wonder if the mistake was ever pointed out to Bob and if he has had dreams about it. I doubt it. I have just broken off writing this letter to watch *Call My Bluff* and Bob Holness used the word lucubrate with a soft 'c' instead of a hard 'c'..."

Quick. And on to the next letter, from A A Horsman, who has a Robert Robinson *Brain of Britain* memory.

"The question (asked by Robert Robinson) was as follows: 'True or false? The following are all cathedral cities, followed by a string of otherwise irreproachable places like York, but including Oxford and Cambridge. 'False,' replied the contestant, 'Oxford is not.' And neither is Cambridge," said Robert Robinson, giving him the point. Since Oxford IS a cathedral city, though Cambridge is not, the contestant got

the right answer for the wrong reason. Should he have got the point?"

Well, I never could tell the difference between cities and towns, so I don't know. I was once told that any place with a cathedral was a city, and I clung on to this comforting bit of jetsam until I realised it was not true, so now I don't know what to believe, nor do I care; and on to the next letter which is from Roderick South of Crawley, who writes as follows:

"Just one more mispronunciation for your collection, which was made the more amusing for me by the evident care and effort which was made by the mispronouncer. A young lady TV newsreader who shall remain nameless because I can't remember her name had been assigned the European football results. Dundee United were playing the home leg of their tie against an Italian club. Clearly under the misapprehension that they were playing the

away leg, her beautifully enunciated voice said: 'And turning to Dundee United's game in Italy on the Tanna-dichay ground...,' whereas in fact the Dundee game is called a very non-Italian Tannadice..."

And finally on to a letter from Gerald Baird in Angus, who encloses a photocopy of the cover of the first Canongate edition of Sir David Lindsay's *The Thrie Estuirs*. The publishers have chosen a piece of a 15th-century tapestry as an illustration. What is the tapestry called? Well, according to the note on the back, it is entitled "After Conservation".

As Mr Baird notes, this is an unlikely name for a tapestry. What has happened is that the restorers put a note on it saying "After Conservation" and the publishers thought it was the title. They have come to their senses in subsequent editions, but Mr Baird has not forgotten their gaffe, and good for him.



## The imagination must not be bound by fear



DAVID  
WALKER  
FICTION AND  
MORALITY

On page 58 of *The End of Alice* a man describes being hounded. It is – this is the usual word – graphic. The novel's narrator, lying on a prison bunk, tells in detail how it feels to be penetrated by a fellow inmate. As a piece of writing it works: the words put you there in a cell, wondering, empathising.

The scene is by no means the most explicit in this book but it is the most shocking. Shocking that is, not in its content, but in reminding us all – potential readers, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, W.H. Smith executives – of the arbitrariness, the waywardness of imagination.

That is because the author of *The End of Alice* is a woman, Amy Homes. What she succeeds in doing is voicing a character, someone who isn't her, a man. She succeeds in imagining someone else who takes on a life. Isn't that capacity to imagine a close cousin of freedom?

Fictional characters live only on a printed page. They are intelligible only to those who understand words: in this novel, school-room words, such as vestment, Pavlovian, pate. The plot is only available moreover to readers used to the conventions of the epistolary novel. This is, in other words, a piece of encoded fiction, available only to initiates. If it is going to stimulate acts of paedophilia or sexual mayhem, we at least have the consolation of knowing the perpetrators will have been moderately well-educated.

For an answer to the fit critic question, which is whether as a piece of writing this fiction is any good, *Independent* readers will need to wait for the books columns on Saturday. What prompted this week's outburst from the chorus of child-care officers, priests and politicians was a public question – what to do with a book, the presumed subject matter of which is the reflections of a paedophile? The chorus argues for control, as it did recently over the film based on J G Ballard's novel *Crash*.

It is easy to rebut them. Their main problem would be Platonic Guardians (such as the editor of the *Daily Mail* and the chief executive of the NSPCC) is their selective behaviourism – the belief that says I can read the book/watch the film and pronounce it depraved and corrupting, on your behalf, without (of course) myself suffering the merest hint of moral corrosion.

Their other difficulty is their taking such a mechanistic approach to fiction. Here, in *The End of Alice*, is a work of imagination in which, for example, a child is invited to

commit incest with his mother by, excuse the phrase, inserting his fist into her vagina. Ripped from its place in the storyline (the author's not very convincing attempt to exculpate her protagonist by remembering his own abuse in childhood), it sounds racy. But even contextless, could it be seriously suggested that parents or their children, reading that, are going to start to have sexual relations? Books are not billiard balls that bounce people into behaving differently.

But having rejected the moral guardians, we are left wondering whether books ever have any effects at all, in the sense of having consequences for the way people behave? Put as baldly as that, the answer has to be yes. Authors certainly like to think so, when it suits. Amy Homes, for example, was claiming this week she knew enough to take part in public debates with the NSPCC, implying a pretty snug fit between the world of imagination and reality. But of course her book is not "about paedophilia"; it is a novel. What she does for a living is to make things up.

Clearly there is money in the supposition that books have effects. It suits Ms Homes's publisher, Anchor (a division of Transworld), that the book is controversial – other publishers pay good money for this kind of hype. In a different way, it suits the NSPCC to get its name on the front page: charities are competitive, the children's charities especially so. (Too be fair to the NSPCC, it asked for a voluntary decision by retailers not to stock it rather than a government ban. Not for the first time W H Smith was first to rush to guard our morals – making the case for Tim Waterstone to take it over stronger than ever).

Some philosophers like to think that good books – "art" – do good. But George Steiner's point stands: what price art (or fiction) if the concentration camp guard comes home in the evening and plays Mozart (or reads Tolstoy) for pleasure? In his new book on music, out this week, the conservative aesthete Roger Scruton writes round the question. In his world, perhaps, no one who was ugly, let alone a paedophile, would ever be the subject of art.

But what if fiction itself strives to teach a moral lesson – does that improve the behaviour of the reader? As Amy Homes has said in interviews, her paedophile protagonist is, after all, in the twenty-third year of a jail sentence imposed for the slaughter of 11-year-old Alice and, she hints, gets part of his comeuppance in what regularly comes up his anus.

That's crude. But so is the general level of the "effects" argument – even, or especially, when informed by empirical research of often stunning banality. So doesn't the question need to be put in a subtler way. Could such fiction coarsen the culture, could it contribute to an "atmosphere" in which perversion spreads? If impermissible thought gets popular expression (in a much-hyped novel, say) does it acquire legitimacy? Does talking about the forbidden makes it acceptable?

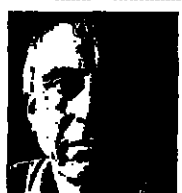
But this comes close to reinventing thought crime. It's an old conclusion, but worth restating. Imagination, even depraved imagination, is a dimension of civic freedom. If the price of liberty is the fiction of perversion, it is still worth paying.



Reaping the harvest: farm machinery in the future may be made of soya plastic

Photograph: Brian Harris

## Can soya beans save the environment?



RICHARD  
D NORTH  
TECHNOLOGY  
GOES GREEN

There is something poetic and comforting in the news that John Deere, the tractor maker, is investing in a plastic door derived from soya beans. The development by Professor Richard Wood of the University of Delaware holds out the promise that heavy, dreary old metal can be replaced without recourse to nasty new plastic.

Great. It is certainly true that we need to replace weighty materials with light ones. Every source of fuel for any vehicle or anything else is polluting in one way or another, so it is clearly silly, say, to waste energy running around in combine harvesters which are heavier than they need to be. Equally, people want to do their shopping in Jeeps, just in case the end of civilisation as we know it happens in the Tesco's car park and a quick getaway through the lines of foot-weary evacuees is needed. But Jeeps need to be lightweight too. There is an important strand

of modern ecological thinking which eulogises Factor Four. This is the latest rubric to come from the pioneer friend of the earth, Amory Lovins, of Snowmass, Colorado. It suggests we can be green and affluent: we can be twice as rich if we are also twice as energy efficient.

Greens of the moderate kind are now miles away from the Greenpeace mentality, typified by those who hated the Millennium Dome because it was to be covered by PVC. It is now to be made out of something like Teflon which will last a bit longer, and for some reason upsets this sort of green less, though it still attracted fundamentalist protest on Tuesday. The realists celebrate, very sensibly, the techno-fixes which work and are sustainable, while being suspicious – rightly – of people who are merely technically gung-ho.

But we need to be careful when we suppose we have much idea what really is sound, and especially about seeking cosiness. That John Deere's new material is soya-based is charming to many people's minds because the non-metal material of choice has always otherwise been plastic. It is an article of modern faith that what is plastic is nasty. On the one hand, it is a new material which does not lend itself to craftsmanship. It is made and moulded industrially. William Morris, romantic, socialist, medievalist and craftsman, did not create in plastic. The closest plastic comes to attractiveness is through its becoming kitsch. Plastic can only have

charm when some retro item is made of it. And on the other hand: plastics are non-degradable. People believe (wrongly) that it is inevitable for them not to be biodegradable. They are trash made permanent.

Plastics offend some important myths about what is natural in the world. They epitomise what we worry about most: a retreat from the organic. There seems to be a spectrum of "naturalness", running from the Prelapsarian hunting and gathering ideal, through natural things worked primitively or exquisitely, and on up until one finds the chemical and the industrial processes we now distrust as polluting and alienating.

Actually, the bulk of what is in a plastic is organic, in the sense that most plastics are made of oil (fossilised bugs) and salt, and the application of heat and pressure. What's more, some plastics and man-made fabrics, such as cellophane and rayon (the kind in the now fashionable retro clothing), are made from cellulose, which is derived from wood. Does this make them any more natural than the oil-based ones, or much less so than heavily-fertilised cotton?

Almost all plastics biodegrade slowly, which makes them ideal for core uses such as water-pipework. If only the Victorians had made their sewers in the reviled and chlorine-based PVC, we would not now be wasting at least a third of our rather variable supply of rainwater. What is more, it is the distrusted plastics that have en-

abled women to go out to work, by providing easy food storage. And so on.

What matters most is to stress that plastics – like paper – are excellent fuel. A plastic package (it's true of a newspaper too) is just the stuff for the kind of municipal incineration, with modern efficient control, which should be dealing with our waste. Why burn our oil without using it first? Why use it without burning it after? Now it happens that incineration, which is a very natural process, is regarded by many greens as being at the very "unnatural" end of our spectrum. It is a non-starter. Similarly, we are unlikely to be able to pursue nuclear power because the most natural and ecologically sound means of disposing of its waste – dumping it in the deep oceans – is regarded, almost certainly quite wrongly, as dangerously unnatural. The sea is, after all, radioactive and vast.

Turning back to our soya plastic. It may be efficient. But we'd need to be scrupulous in our ecological judgement. If it biodegrades in a landfill, the microbial action involved will produce the global warming gas methane. Left lying around it would biodegrade to the global warmer, carbon dioxide. Or would we rather burn the door in an incinerator and get the energy back that way? And would the thing really be efficient? One big problem with using agricultural crops for fuel has

always been that they can take rather more energy (in fertiliser and pesticide) than they save in use. And where will they be grown: in the ex-rainforests of Indonesia, perhaps?

The core issue is cultural. We have rather a down on chemists and their industry. We forget that God was first a physicist, then a geologist and a chemist. Still, his greatest work was as a biologist. It is certainly true that the next century seems to belong to biology. But that is the science which now poses the biggest ethical uncertainties as well as some of the biggest intellectual and commercial possibilities. As we fall in love with a soya door, we will need to remember that the way to make it energy efficient is to bio-engineer the soya so as to require less fertiliser, pesticide and water. And this sort of bio-technology raises large questions as to naturalness and possible ecological damage.

We might go further, remembering that Prof Wood is a chemical engineer. The clever thing to do would be to take the desirable enzymes from soya plants and replicate them in a bio-fermenter, a bio-chemical process. There'd be no farming involved, but no rainforest destruction either. The thing to remember about factories is that they save habitat. Life seems to be like that: what the world calls unnatural sometimes preserves the natural, and the seemingly natural can have its own hazards.

## Half term, and the children shamble round like bedraggled Romanies



JOHN  
WALSH

At the joys of half term. The deep satisfaction of sharing a week with one's precociously gifted children, in a spirit of holiday fun and communal self-betterment.

The fascination of discovering of how a whole generation of pre-pubescent future Blairites is facing the challenge of tomorrow ...

No such luck. Half term in

London has taken on at least three hellish characteristics. Family discussion for one, has taken on a peculiar quality. Where, last year, it seemed that the average nine-year-old was capable of uttering, unaided, only two things, namely, "Oh cool" and "No way", now even this meagre dole of speech has disappeared from their lips. In its place is a thing – hardly a word, more a bolted phoneme voiced at a high, complaining pitch – which sounds like "Neh-harhe". It comes from watching too many *Friends* videos (Rachel apparently used to say it all the time) and it signifies that though the speaker would like to vocalise the words "It's not fair" or "I'd rather not", this sound is the only utterance they can be bothered to make. So, you ask, would you and your friends care for a ride in the hot air balloon at Vauxhall Gardens? "Neh-harhe." OK then, stay here and you can help me wash the Renault. "Neh-harhe daddy."

Half term also means nits. There has been an outbreak, practically a pandemic, in south London lately and one or two jumping microbes have indeed been seen on the baby's fragrant and pristine bonce.

So everyone in the house has to be doused with proprietary brands of lotions called "Nih Nih 90", which have both the pong and disinfectant kick of DDT. But then a recent scare broke out and mothers were warned that brands of scalp-cleansing

nit-repellent could carry ghastly side-effects, leaving their innocent children's heads spinning with toxins, at which the middle classes of SE21 went all homeopathic.

The only known nits-remedy outside the chemical laboratory of Sacramento and Salzburg turns out to be an expensive cocktail of Tea Tree oil and vodka, liberally applied.

The children now shamble about the house like bedraggled Romanies on the Dover shingle, smelling like alcoholic forresters.

Tea Tree oil? Where does that come from? Nobody had heard of it in July and now it's everywhere, like Cranberry recipes were last autumn. It is clearly the most bogus concoction since Heinz put salad cream and tomato ketchup together and called it Thousand Island Dressing. Is it just me or is this the most egregiously fake medication since Dobbier's Horse Rejuvenating Pills were advertised on *Round the Horne*? What does the label say? "Tea Tree essential oil is produced by steam distillation of the leaves."

And which leaves are these? Tea leaves. Surely the only thing produced by steam distillation of tea leaves is a drink with jam and bread. And the fact that this noxious concoction has to be diluted or beefed up with my dwindling supplies of Virgin Vodka ("triple distilled for extra purity", indeed) is enough to leave you muttering darkly in the streets, like small investors worried

about the new Wall Street crash.

Ring-ring. But who can this be at the front door interrupting your dark reverie? Why, it is Bertie, a charming bespectacled six-year-old with Milky Bar Kid demeanour and extremely loud voice; he is arriving as part of that other half-term tradition, the Child Swap. When your own delinquent kids gets bored with their own home (usually inside 36 hours), it is now mandatory that you pack them off to someone else's house to break some other child's toys and destroy their parents' wallpaper, on the understanding that their tiny hooligan will come round for a return match a week later. And here he is. "Bertie is having trouble finding the loo in time. But he is a good boy and does not mean it." What? "I pick him up at seven. Bye bye." She is gone. Bertie strides past, suspiciously bandy of gait. The baby trundles by, a tragic Millais urchin surmounted by Tendrils of Tea Tree oiled curls.

It must be lovely, somebody says, spending half term with the kids. "Neh-harhe" I reply. A quick getaway up the M1 and we find ourselves in Yorkshire, staying in a village just outside Harrogate. God, it's so northern. The fields are covered by a hoarfrost, the kind you'd

only find described by the Lake poets. The local bacon is salted within an inch of its life. The lady in the village's only shop, surveying my afternoon purchase of tomorrow's breakfast, says appreciatively, "That's a fine tea you've got there." Outside the shop, a hoarding for the local newspaper reads "Yorks Pensioners' Bus Explodes". The signposts carry village names of such preposterous picturesqueness (Kettlethling Bottom, and Blubberhouses), they must have



been invented the other day by English Heritage to seduce the impressionable southerner. And in a local restaurant, where 35 matrons in ironclad foundation garments and sturdy J B Priestley heroine blouses and skirts are preparing to celebrate some unimaginable community endeavour (could they be the *Last Of The Summer Wine* fan club?), I en-

counter a philosophical impasse you wouldn't find in the establishment of Sir Terence Conran.

It's 7.15 pm. Here is the *prix fixe* menu, three courses for a song. But one of our number doesn't fancy the lamb or the game pie and orders a steak off the *à la carte* menu. "You can't," said the waitress with the streaming cold. Why not? "The *à la carte* menu doesn't start until 7.30."

Well OK, said my friend, I'll just sit here for 15 minutes then order it. "No you can't do that," said the waitress. Why not? "Because you came in before 7.30," the girl explained. "So you've still got the three-course menu." We conferred with each other. All right then, I said. Would it be OK if my friend went outside while the others had their first course, then came back in at 7.31 pm and ordered a steak? The waitress sniffed. "I wouldn't think you'd get a steak then. We've got 35 for dinner and they'll probably order a lot of steaks." Yes, but if you know I want one and I will be back here one minute past the deadline surely you could ... "I'm sorry," the waitress said firmly. "You're in early menu time."

And that was that. Like lost travellers in *Back To The Future* we had encountered a Northern hinterland that would defeat Stephen Hawking and Douglas Adams; we were stuck, steakless in a temporal no-man's land; becalmed in early menu time.

## Zinfandel?

Didn't we see one on Safari?

0800 731 1674  
ERNEST & JULIO GALLO  
CALIFORNIA



## Martin Pace

**Martin Gaze Pace, sculptor:** born York 29 March 1949; married 1980 Sue Halsworth (one son, one daughter); died York 9 September 1997.

Some artists are inextricably linked with the landscape in which they live and from which their work gains sustenance – one thinks of Constable and Constable, Seurat or Hopper. The sculptor Martin Pace was a memorable example.

For the past 25 years, Pace carved a distinctive route through the vagaries and fashions of contemporary sculpture, borrowing and appropriating from past and present, but always speaking with a highly original voice. During this period he knew national – and international – recognition, as well as relative, undeserved neglect. He treated both with his characteristic chuckle of self-deprecating humour, buoyed as always by his family and his beloved Yorkshire landscapes, whether the Wolds, the Dales, the rugged coast, or most especially the North York moors.

He was the third child of George Pace, one of the most eminent ecclesiastical architects in post-war Britain (his work is celebrated in a 1990 monograph by Martin's younger brother, Peter). After early years at St Peter's School in York, he studied sculpture at Chelsea College of Art, where in the late 1960s Antanas Brazdys was a charismatic influence.

Turning down opportunities for postgraduate study, he returned to the county – and city – of his upbringing and inspi-

ration, gaining his first and only full-time teaching post at York School of Art. He found himself amongst a lively, fairly unmanageable crew of youthful artists/teachers, led by the fearsome but kindly Denis Donn, a mariner of the old school.

Donn gave avuncular encouragement to his raw but clearly prodigious talent as Pace became part of the Foundation course team. This was a potent mix of anarchic creativity and scholarly conservatism, which flourished in the hallowed neo-classical back-rooms of the City Art Gallery before it decamped to a new building of modernist anonymity on the edge of the city.

Pace survived the move with customary optimism, and carried the *baton* of outrageous invention for the next 20 years. I knew him as a teaching colleague during those heady early Seventies, and spent two memorable years living with him in a ménage of girlfriends, livestock and ploughed-over potatoes on a remote and very redundant farm on the East Yorks Plain. There was no challenge too daunting for him: light came from oil lamps, baths were in beer barrels, food from the fields and Nelly the goat, fuel and artistic materials from the local copse. The 1974 World Cup was viewed on a colour – television running off a Honda generator whose noise drowned that of the frightened Nelly.

Pace peopled that landscape – the first of many such fashioned domains – with wonderful sculpture, dotted around rusting barns and abandoned tractors. It was probably York-

shire's first, if not most famous, Sculpture Park.

Pace never saw himself as a narrowly figurative artist – his work was too saturated with knowledge and love of modernist abstraction, of the formalism of Japanese sculpture, woodcut and garden design, of the surreal frottage of Ernst and the metaphysical constructs of de Chirico and Carrà. There was, too, his abiding love of poetry, especially Wilfred Owen, science fiction and Surrealist film. He was a huge magpie, creating nests from the most unlikely farragoes of the borrowed and found.

Pace was an outstanding draughtsman, and his drawings, typically large pen and ink works, had a Brueghel-like fecundity of imaginative detail. These images fed his sculptural practice, with their fusion of reality and fantasy; all this was in place very early in his career.

As adept at carving as forging, equally fluent with metal, wood, plaster or stone, he inherited a reverence for material from his father, and shared his perfectionist nature. It was his all-round mastery of the crafts of sculpture, serving a thoroughly contemporary sensibility, which made him such an effective teacher; technique always followed creativity, expressed in his case through that most curiously omnivorous imagination. During a long period of decline in the teaching of drawing and technical skills in art schools, Pace's teaching of the importance of those fundamentals to any young aspiring artist – including those waiting for the nod from *Satchi* and *sue-like* – was ex-



Pace: a huge magpie of the borrowed and found

emplary throughout the Seventies and Eighties.

To a degree, his own career suffered from his devotion to his students, and to his family. An eminent dealer once told him he should make a choice between fame and home life; Pace knew the answer instinctively. By this time he had reached the height of his professional success; during 1975-85 his work was included in the

most prestigious surveys of contemporary sculpture: there were one-man shows in Newcastle, York and London; visits to the most important art schools around the country; and his work was collected here and in the United States. He also enjoyed vigorous patronage by Vera Russell, who included him in her famous Artists Market shows in London.

From this point his career

went into a gentle diminuendo as the ties of family and the roots of his beloved landscape took hold, and his distaste for metropolitan type gained the upper hand. However, the quantity and quality of his work never declined – indeed it was beginning to take on new dimensions, as evidenced by the last works: paintings, interestingly, which lie still drying in his studio.

— Bruce Russell

## William Shand

**William Shand, poet and writer:** born Glasgow 20 December 1902; married 1938 Valerie Clarebourn (marriage dissolved 1942); 1950 Susana Weissmann (died 1994); died Buenos Aires 8 October 1997.

The Anglo-Argentine poet and short-story writer William Shand said that he wanted to live to be 95, an age he would have reached in December when a special tribute, a volume of articles by friends and literary critics, was to be presented to him. "Better an honour in life than a monument when you're dead," he said.

He will be remembered most in Argentina for some of his later poems (in Spanish), which appeared in the Sunday books section of the Buenos Aires newspaper *La Nación*, and for his 1970 anthology *Contemporary Argentine Poetry*, a translation into English of Argentine poets, which is remarkable for the breadth of its inclusions, ignoring the deep political differences which in those years decided who could be published and who not.

He had previously published a volume of translations into Spanish of English poetry of the Spanish Civil War (in 1947), with the late Argentine poet Alberto Girri, another of English poets (1950), and translations of John Donne (1953), US poets (1956), and Stephen Spender (1967).

In addition, his own production was copious. He had published about a dozen collections of his own poems in English, seven volumes of short stories in English and Spanish, and over a dozen short plays. His last book, published in 1996, was an 800-page collection of his short stories in Spanish written between 1975 and 1992. This he struggled to prepare after writing a volume of poems in memory of his wife, Susana Weissmann, who died in 1994.

In the world of music he will be remembered for his libretto, written with Girri in 1990, for Alberto Ginastera's opera *Beatrix Cenci*, commissioned by the Opera Society of Washington. It premiered at the Kennedy Centre in Washington in 1991, and in Buenos Aires, at the Colón theatre, in 1992.

But even if he is not remembered for all his literary output the pleasures he got out of life, out of friendship, out of the gossip of the literary community, and his love affairs – perhaps most of all his love affairs – will be recalled over lunches and suppers in Buenos Aires, for many years to come.

Shand was very much an urban writer, and the characters in his writing belong to the tangled existence of the city. The Scottish-Canadian critic John Walker wrote in *The Land that England Lost* (1992):

**François-Henri de Virieu**, journalist, died Marly-le-Roi, France 26 October, aged 65. Founding editor of *Le Matin de Paris* in 1977, and host of the television news programme *Hour of Truth* from 1982. Elected Mayor of Marly-le-Roi in 1995.

Shand's method is to present the individuals and the families as they really are – lacking in communication, respect, love, morality and values. As they go, so goes society. Shand does not hesitate to use the scalpel and open up the cancers to reveal the pus of corruption at all levels, whether it be in commerce or in politics.

And yet, Shand was a man of great good humour, addressing men and women friends always in the same way. "How are you, *lindo* (or *linda*)?" With a loud laugh. His birthday suppers, over the last decade, were gatherings of friends who enjoyed his endearments but always had to hear a speech damning the corruption in government and in Argentine society.

William Shand was born in Glasgow in 1902, but that was a geographical accident and he had no trace of Scots. His father was a jeweller, in Clapham, south London, and his mother was born in Tbilisi into a Jewish family.

He started out in his father's business and enjoyed a comfortable middle-class youth. He lived in Berlin for a time, in the mid-1920s, having fallen in love with a German woman, and on his return to London fell madly in love with an Indian girl studying in Britain. In 1938, he married the sculptor Valerie Clarebourn, with whom he came to Argentina. She left him in 1942, and Shand married a second time in 1950.

His first poems were published in the *Observer*. His first collection of poems was published in Buenos Aires, in 1942, and followed with a second book soon after which was prefaced by the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges.

He made his living in Buenos Aires with an advertising agency, where the Ar-



Shand: 'felt' young

gentine writer Ernesto Sabato was his partner for a time in 1946. Eventually, his agency was changed into a rep office selling subscriptions to foreign publications. When he retired, aged 75, he gave the business to his employees. In 1982, during the Falklands-Malvinas war, he became an Argentine citizen.

Shand thoroughly enjoyed his long life. When he died, in spite of his age, and the expected end, friends were distraught. Shand "felt" young in spite of his years.

— Andrew Graham-Yooll

## Maurice Griffiths

**Maurice Walter Griffiths, yacht designer, journalist and author:** born London 22 May 1902; Editor, *Yachting Monthly* 1927-67; George Medel 1941; married 1927 Dulcie Kennard (marriage dissolved 1934); 1944 Marjorie Copson (died 1997); died Colchester, Essex 11 October 1997.

Yachting in the 1920s was a sport for the wealthy, but thanks to developments in design and materials it was later brought within the reach of everyone. Among the pioneers who made sailing affordable was Maurice Griffiths, whose first book in 1925 was *Yachting on a Small Income*. More than 70 years on he rounded off his long literary career in 1996 with *Sailing on a Modest Income*. In the decades between, as editor, author and yacht designer, he devoted his life to the cause of cheaper sailing.

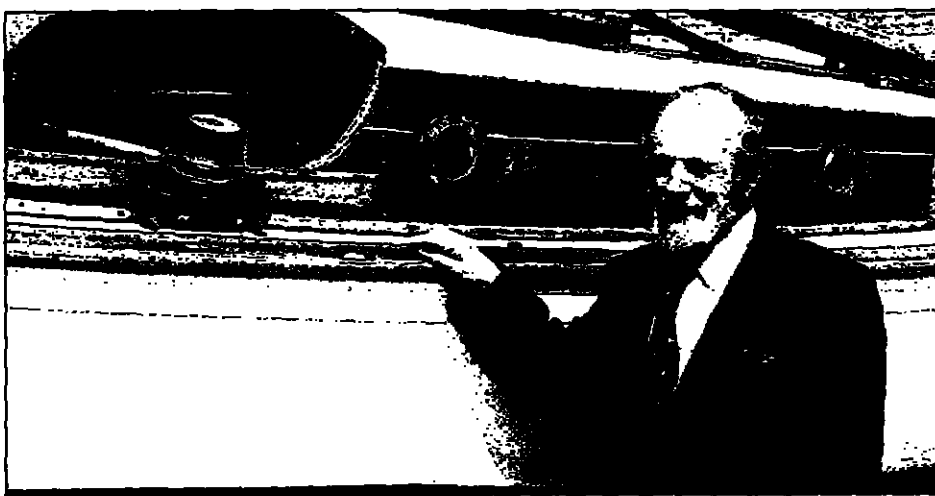
It was not his first ambition. The son of a glove salesman and a mother whom he described as "a vehement suffragette", he was from the age of four fascinated by the "beautiful blue engines with shining brass" of the Great Eastern Railway, which he saw in his home town of Ipswich. His first published writings in 1921 were railway articles for the *East*

*Anglian Daily Times*, and one of his three novels (*Dempster and Son*) was about a family of railwaymen. But his father could not afford to pay for an apprenticeship, so the young Maurice started work for an estate agent instead.

It was at this time that he first became interested in sailing. I sent him a card on his 90th birthday which fortuitously depicted a reach of the River Orwell; it was, he wrote, "singularly appropriate for it was just where I found my first boat in 1921". Thereafter sailing was to dominate his life and he went to work for a yacht broker.

When his book *Yachting on a Small Income* proved popular, new opportunities opened up. In 1926 he was invited to become editor of the *Yachting Monthly*, a post he was to hold (apart from his war service) for over 40 years. The magazine ran design competitions and Griffiths became increasingly interested in this aspect of the sport. The eminent yacht designer Frederick Shepherd taught him and in 1929 Griffiths received his first commission for an eight-ton centreboard cruiser named *Wind Song*. Years later, partly for sentimental reasons, Griffiths bought her himself.

He was inveterate buyer and seller of yachts. Once, with his help, I compiled a list of them: the total came to more than 20. As he wrote, "the list reads, I must admit, like a battle fleet, but buying boats so as to experiment with them has been something of a manic hobby". It was one of the reasons his first wife left him. He had married Dulcie Kennard in 1927: she was a fellow enthusiast, with her own yacht *Juanita* from which she would never part. They were divorced in 1934, and she married the marine artist Charles Pears – to whom Maurice Griffiths had sold a yacht in 1924.



Griffiths beside a classic boat at West Mersea

Photograph: Paul Gelder / *Yachting Monthly*

The Second World War brought further changes in Griffiths's life. He joined the RNRV and was soon commander of a flotilla of mine recovery ships, based in his beloved East Anglia. In January 1941 he was one of the first recipients of the George Medal. "For gallantry and undaunted devotion to duty". Later as a Lieut-Commander he became expert on defusing magnetic mines in the Middle East and on D-Day's Mulberry Harbours. These experiences culminated in a book on mine-clearing, *The Hidden Menace* (1981). In the Navy he also met his second wife – 3rd Officer Marjorie Popson of the WRNS, whom he married in 1944. "Coppie" died in February 1997, at the age of 90.

Back in the *Yachting Monthly*'s editorial chair in 1945, Griffiths also resumed his designing career. In 1957 his shoal draught bilge keel cruising yacht *Eventide* was launched. She was intended for home-building by amateurs, and by 1981 over 1,800 sets of plans had been sold. The *Waterwitch* design of 1961 was similarly successful. He also produced plans for individual owners. The most famous was *Jeune D'Arc* in 1951 for Lieut-

Gen Sir Frederick Browning and his novelist wife, Dame Daphne du Maurier.

I first made contact with MG, as he was generally known, in 1945; as a schoolboy of 14, I was making a model of his yacht *Wilful*. He responded enthusiastically and sent me a plan. Thereafter we corresponded sporadically over many years. We met at the 1980 Boat Show when he told me sadly that he had had to sell his last yacht *Kylx* and give up sailing. "I smashed my leg," he said, "and I have a hernia which means I can't lift an anchor."

So he and Marjorie ended their days ashore at West Mersea, on the East Coast, which his many books bring so vividly to life. Sometimes they were illustrated with his own attractive pen and ink drawings. Some of their titles are splendidly evocative: *Ten Small Yachts* (1933), *Little Ship and Shoal Waters* (1937), *The First of the Tide* (1979), *Round the Cabin Table* (1985), *Sixty Years a Yacht Designer* (1988). But his supreme masterpiece in *The Magic of the Swathways* (1932), written with the sharp eye of a practical sailor and a romantic imagination of a poet. No one else has so delicately written of what he called "the silence of the creeks". — Dennis Bird

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

**BIRTHS**  
BARRY: to Katharina (nee Rieppel) and Simon, a son, Edmund Florian, on 23 October 1997 at St Mary's, Paddington.

**DEATHS**  
BEASLEY: On 28 October 1997, suddenly at Rosemarie, Doctor John Beasley, of Pipers House, Sheffield Green, Aylesbury. Loved husband of Rosemary and father of Sally, Roderick and Catherine. Private cremation. Memorial service to be arranged.

For current BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS please telephone 071-293-2011 or fax to 071-293-2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
The Duke of York, Prince of Wales, will marry the Duchess of Gloucester, Princess Alexandra, on 23 October 1997 at St Mary's, Paddington.

**Changing of the Guard**  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. The Grenadier Guard mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

## Birthdays

Sir Charles Brett, solicitor, 69; Sir Anthony Campbell, High Court judge, Northern Ireland, 61; Lord Chilver, chairman, RJB Mining, 71; Sir Robert Clayton, former technical director of GEC, 82; Mr John Dain, diplomat, 58; Mr Stephen Day MP, 48; Lord Derwent, managing director, Hutchison Whampoa (Europe) Ltd, 67; Sir Robert Easton, chairman and managing director, GEC Scotland, 75; Professor Sir Christopher Foster, advisor to the chairman, Coopers & Lybrand Associates, 67; Sir Sydney Gillard, former diplomat, 71; Sir Malachy Higgins, High Court judge, Northern Ireland, 53; Miss Ruth Hussey, actress, 83; Mr Shimo Mizu, violinist, 40; Lord Robertson, former senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 85; Mr Stanley Sadie, editor, Grove Music Dictionary, 67; Sir William Shelton, former MP, 68; Miss Grace Slick, rock singer, 58; Miss Juliet Stevenson, actress, 41; Lieut-Gen Sir Richard Swinburn, farmer, and former General Officer Commanding, Southern District, 66; Admiral Sir Gordon Tat, 76; Mr Bob Wilson, television football commentator, 86; Sir David Wilson, former director of the British Museum, 66; Mr Michael Winner, film producer and director, 62.

## Anniversaries

Birch: Maria Anna Angelica Kaufmann, painter, 1741; Richard Brinsley Butler Sheridan, playwright, 1751; Ezra Loomis Pound, poet, 1885; Peter Warlock (Philip Arnold Heselgrave), composer, 1894; Deaths: Edmund Cartwright, power-loom

inventor, 1825; John Chubb, locksmith, 1872; Jean-Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, 1910; Dame Emily Rose Macquarie, novelist, 1958; James Alan Mollison, pioneer aviator, 1959; Sir Barnes Neville Wallis, inventor, 1870. On this day: the Yeoman of the Guard were established by Henry VII, 1485; Sir Francis Drake completed his circumnavigation of the world when he arrived at Plymouth in the *Golden Hind*, 1580; an independent government was established for Venezuela by Bolívar, 1811; Orson Welles' radio play, *The War of the Worlds*, caused panic in the US, 1938. Today is the Feast Day of St Alphonsus Rodriguez, St Asterius of Amasea, St Ethelnoth, St Germanus of Capua, St Marcellus the Centurion and St Serapion of Antioch.

## Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Strang, "Hogarth (15): Hogarth's public", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rundle, "French Furniture in the Rococo Taste", 2.30pm.  
British Museum: Carol Andrews, "Jewellery of Ancient Egypt", 1.15pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: Judy Egerton, "Raeburn's English Contemporaries", 1.10pm.  
Graham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC2: Professor Simon Lee, "Law and Morals Revisited: equality and New Labour", 5.30pm.  
RIBA: Sir Christopher Benyon, "Architecture is Everywhere", 6.30pm.  
Leicester University: Brian Allen, "Rousing the National Spirit: histo-

## LAW REPORT: 30 OCTOBER 1997

### Adoption granted despite immigration irregularities

An adoption application which was tainted by deception with regard to immigration regulations but which was supported by a real parent and child relationship was not to be regarded in the same way as a sham application of convenience.

*Re J (A Minor) (Adoption: Non-Patril) [1997] 1 WLR 971.*

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal against the refusal of Mr Justice Singer to make an adoption order in respect of the child J, aged eight.

J's natural parents, who lived in Pakistan, had arranged that when J was born he would be given to the adoptive parents, who were infertile, as their own. J's natural father and his adoptive father were cousins. The adoptive parents

were British citizens. According to custom in Pakistan the arrangement had the full consequences of an adoption order in our society. When J was five his natural parents brought him to England, having received entry clearance for a two week holiday. The natural parents returned to Pakistan, leaving J with the adoptive parents, who applied to adopt him.

*Guido Munkch QX (Owner & Driver, W & M Holdings) for the adoption of Elizabeth Coleman for the Official Solicitor for the Home Secretary.*

Lord Justice Thorpe said that the judge had defined the issue in the case as the balance between the welfare advantages to J of allowing the adoption application and considerations of public policy.

He had directed himself by reference to his Lordship's

judgment in *Re H (Adoption: Non-Patril) [1997] 1 WLR 971*, saying that, although he did not read that judgment as stating that where there had been any degree of deliberate circumvention of immigration regulations and controls the adoption application was doomed to failure, the policy considerations he had to weigh included the effect of granting an adoption order on the world at large. It would be grossly unfair if people who cheated were able to steal a march on those attempting to secure lawful entry.

His Lordship wished first to clarify what he had said in *Re H* concerning misuse and blatant abuse of the right to apply for adoption. He had not intended that passage to apply to real applicants, tainted by deception in their history, but to sham applications or applications of convenience comparable to the marriage of convenience.

But where the adoption application was supported by the fundamental foundation of a parent and child relationship the function of the court was to apply section 6 of the Adoption Act 1976 giving full weight to the guidance as to what was meant by first consideration in *Re D (An Infant) (Adoption: Parents' Consent) [1977] AC 612* and to the guidance given specifically in non patril cases in *Re W (A Minor) (Adoption: Non Patril) [1986] Fam 54*.

Secondly, it was worth considering the extent of the adoptive parents' misconduct in the light of the alternative courses of action open to them. The procedures where a child had not been legally adopted or had been adopted in a country which was not designated by the Adoption (Designation of Overseas Adoptions) Order 1973 made plain that, if the adoption were to proceed in this juris-

isdiction after entry, the Department required to be satisfied that the proposed adoption involved a genuine transfer of parental responsibility on the ground of the natural parents' inability to care for the child.

Although it had been stressed that the Home Secretary retained an unfettered discretion, the policy statement was uncompromising and made no provision at all for a custom which the court had been told was recognised in many parts of the world. Leaving aside legal analysis, to allow the appeal was to give the present case its proper place in the outcome of reported non patril cases. Orders had only been refused where the minor was on the verge of majority. It would be hard to explain to the adoptive parents, why they had failed when their counterparts had succeeded in *Re H*.

— Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Sainsbury's pushes up profits and market share

Sainsbury's continued its recovery yesterday with improved profits, an increase in market share and the announcement of a new boardroom structure.

The supermarket group also plans to reduce its emphasis on non-food lines such as clothing, electrical appliances and cookery items to concentrate on providing a fuller food offer. Nigel Cape, City Correspondent, reports.

Lord David Sainsbury, chairman, said he was pleased the company was now moving in the right direction but admitted that the process was far from complete. "We recognise that our achievements represent the first steps in the group's recovery and that there is still work to be done in each of the businesses," he said.

He was speaking as Sainsbury's announced a 6.2 per cent increase in first-half profits to £411m which included a 4 per cent increase in same-store sales. The figures have helped Sainsbury's improve its market share though Dino Adriano, who was yesterday appointed group chief executive, admitted that overtaking Tesco as Britain's

largest grocer was not a realistic aim. Sainsbury's has increased its market share from 12.5 per cent to 12.7 per cent, according to the Institute of Grocery Distribution, while Tesco's share is 15.6 per cent. Industry estimates put Asda in third place with 7.6 per cent, slightly ahead of Sainsbury (7.5 per cent).

Sainsbury's figures were welcomed in the City. Mike Dennis, food retail analyst at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, said: "They've got the right management together and the right retail philosophy and they are starting to take the lead on some initiatives. That is the right recipe to move this business ahead. But they will have to work hard to pull it off."

The fine-tuning of the boardroom structure will see Mr Adriano move to become group chief executive in March though he will still be responsible for the UK super-markets business. David Brenner, the head of the US and DIY operations, is promoted to deputy chief executive. Lord Sainsbury will remain executive chairman and said the changes were not a prelude to him moving to a non-executive role.

In a move directly opposite from Tesco's strategy, Sainsbury's plans to reduce the emphasis on non-food lines. Clothing ranges will be removed from its standard-sized stores. The larger SavaCentre stores will stock a more focused clothing range but will

stop selling many non-food lines such as televisions, lighting, DIY and possibly music and videos. "Our heritage is about food and that's what we want to concentrate on," said Mr Brenner.

A store opening and expansion programme will see Sainsbury's create 6,500 new jobs over the next year. Sainsbury's confirmed it had employed brand consultants to review its corporate image and admitted that its trademark orange logo may be changed.

In America, the group's Shaw's subsidiary has been affected by a strike which cost \$8m. The company said it did not intend to buy the remainder of the Giant su-

permarket group in the US, in which it holds a significant stake, until it had improved Shaw's performance.

Sainsbury's Bank made a loss of £10.8m in the first half and its projected losses for the full year are £15m-£20m. But the bank has deposits of £1bn, is opening 12,000 new accounts per week and should move into profit towards the end of next year, Lord Sainsbury said.

Group sales increased by 9 per cent to £8.2bn in the six months to 30 September. The dividend was increased by 7 per cent to 3.75p. Sainsbury's shares rose 26p to 506p.

Investment column, page 24

## Shares continue to rally as US Fed chairman speaks

The stock market recovery on both sides of the Atlantic continued yesterday after investors took comments from Alan Greenspan, Federal Reserve chairman, in their stride. Tom Stevenson and Mary Dejevsky report on the calming of the crisis.

Shares in London and New York behaved yesterday as if Monday's meltdown had never happened, with the FTSE 100 index posting a 116.4 point gain to close at 4871.8 and the Dow Jones rising more than 130 points at one stage as investors focused on soothing comments from the Fed chairman.

European bourses took heart from Wall Street's rebound on Tuesday and the record-breaking rises in the Far East, especially Hong Kong. Shares rose across the board. In France the rise in the CAC 40 index was over 6 per cent while German shares rose almost 4.5 per cent.

The rise in the FTSE 100,

which had shed almost 11 per cent since 3 October, was worth 2.5 per cent as advancing shares outweighed decliners by 77 to 22.

Less than 24 hours after Wall Street led the rebound from Monday's fall, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve said the decline in share prices could have long-term beneficial effects by reducing markets to a more sustainable level.

In scheduled testimony to the Congressional Joint Economic Committee in Washington yesterday, Mr Greenspan said: "Provided the decline in financial markets does not cumulate, it is quite conceivable that a few years hence we will look back at this episode, as we now look back at the 1987 crash, as a salutary event in terms of its implication for the macro-economy."

Mr Greenspan stressed that despite Tuesday's record rise in share prices, there had still been a net fall, but said this was no bad thing. Consumers, he said, felt "less wealthy than they did a week ago"; this would "tend to dampen economic activity" and that in turn "should help to prolong our six-and-a-

half year business expansion".

The Fed chairman has long warned of the risk of inflation - most famously in his reference to the "irrational exuberance" of US investors earlier in the year - and warned again yesterday against thinking inflation had been finally banished.

Mr Greenspan's testimony, which was postponed for a day after Monday's market turmoil, had been keenly awaited. But it had little immediate effect on share prices, which continued their steady rise through the morning. The markets appeared more worried by the announcement from Iraq that it was expelling all US personnel working for international organisations in the country.

Mr Greenspan was upbeat about the overall state of the US economy, speaking of its "continued impressive performance in recent months". However, he also said that the Federal Reserve had to remain vigilant to ensure that the very low unemployment rate in the US did not precipitate inflation.

Wall Street analysts concurred that the decline in share prices and Mr Greenspan's response made a rise in US interest rates less likely when the Federal Reserve next meets to consider the question on 12 November. They said the markets had accomplished the economic slowdown that an increase in rates would have aimed to achieve.

Despite the apparent return of confidence, analysts warned shock waves would continue to affect stock markets. "One has to regard this recovery as extremely fragile," said one trader in London. "It is quite probable we are going to see more volatility, but at least we seem to have broken the cycle of markets just going down and down each day."

Outlook, page 25



Investors around the world were waiting for Alan Greenspan's testimony to Congress yesterday. But his speech had little immediate effect on share prices. Photograph: Reuters

## Hang Seng gains 19% as Hong Kong takes comfort from Wall St

Like manna from heaven, Tuesday's record rise on Wall Street brought instant relief to Asian markets yesterday. Nowhere was this seen more spectacularly than on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, which had witnessed a record fall on Tuesday, followed yesterday by a record rise of 1,705 points, a gain of almost 19 per cent. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reports.

The Australian market also saw a record rise of more than 6 per cent, with volumes so high that trading had to be suspended early to ensure that settlements could be made. Neighbouring New Zealand, which took the brunt of the negative reaction to Wall Street's massive fall on Monday, was second only to Hong Kong in benefiting from the turnaround. The Wellington market closed up nearly 10 per cent, another record.

Elsewhere in Asia, gains were in a range of 2 to 3 per cent, with Tokyo near the top, and the battered Thai and Taiwan markets still unable to advance. The real action, however, was in Hong Kong where some traders were talking about the unusual phenomenon of "panic buying". The buying spree gathered pace throughout the day, focusing on blue chips and China-associated stocks.

By far the biggest volume of trade was in the shares of HSBC Holdings, which runs Midland and Hongkong Banks. HSBC

shares worth HK\$5.3bn (£414m) changed hands, leaving the stock 21 per cent up on the day.

The big question is whether yesterday's spectacular rise is anything more than a flash in the pan which will give way to similarly spectacular reverses.

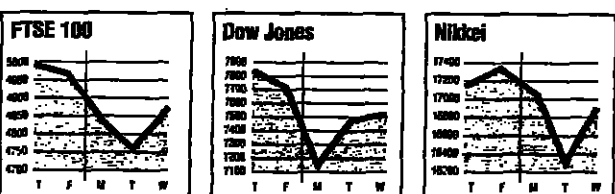
Howard Georges, the vice-chairman of the South China Brokerage, said: "I think we're over the worst, barring accidents." Jake van der Kamp, investment strategist at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, was prepared to stick his neck out further, declaring: "I'm prepared to say it's over." He believes that attacks on the Hong Kong dollar by hedge fund managers have been beaten off and there is no reason for anything other than "continued strength in the Hong Kong market".

This does not mean there will not be further turbulence, nor is it likely that a record-breaking market rise will not produce profit taking. "It's a brave person that says this rally is heading the market in a different direction," said David Dodwell, a director at Jardine Fleming, who added: "We're still in a volatile market. A lot can happen."

But there was a widespread view that the carnage, which knocked one-third off the value of the market in less than a month, has come to a halt.

All eyes remain firmly fixed on Wall Street. As Asian markets closed, market participants were waiting up to follow the testimony of Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve. A hint of higher interest rates or a suggestion the markets remain overheated could rapidly turn yesterday's bull spurt on its heels.

## STOCK MARKETS



\*Dow Jones index and graph on p. 23

Indices	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	4871.80	+116.40	2.45	5367.30	4300.00	3.57
FTSE 250	4888.10	+139.70	3.08	4953.50	4348.10	3.47
FTSE 350	2385.40	+59.00	2.57	2455.30	1949.20	3.55
FTSE All Share	2306.81	+57.85	2.57	2402.41	1925.79	3.53
FTSE SmallCap	2215.8	+58.30	2.58	2405.20	2128.40	3.24
FTSE Realind	1263.4	+38.20	3.12	1346.50	1198.70	8.37
FTSE AIM	986.2	+20.30	2.10	1138.00	965.50	1.03
Dow Jones	7508.63	+110.05	0.15	8259.31	5993.23	1.78
Nikkei	16887.04	+544.35	3.34	21418.25	16312.68	0.87
Hang Seng	10785.30	+1705.41	16.82	16873.27	9059.88	3.86
Dax	3791.61	+224.59	6.30	4436.58	2658.25	2.10

## INTEREST RATES

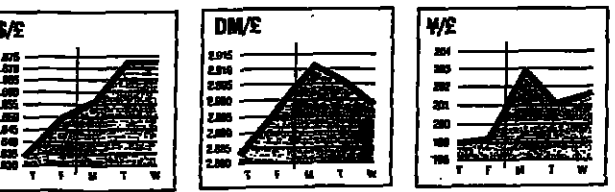


Money Market Rates	3 month	1 yr	1 yr 6m	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	7.37	-0.17c	1.6111	5.97	6.50	6.50	-1.38
US	6.78	0.20	5.97	0.13	5.91	6.23	-0.46
Japan	0.53	0.03	0.57	-0.03	1.83	0.84	2.46
Germany	3.58	0.53	4.10	0.80	5.84	-0.37	6.24

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
Schroders PLC 1529.00 189.00 14.10	Nat Grid Group 279.00 -8.00 -3.13
Parliament Group 101.00 10.00 10.99	Rank Group PLC 332.00 -10.00 -2.92
Schroders PLC 1800.00 175.00 10.77	11 Group PLC 568.00 -17.00 -2.91
Booker PLC 315.00 26.50 8.19	Severn Trent 864.5 -25.5 -2.97

## CURRENCIES



Pound	Dollar	D-Mark	Yen
1.6735	1.6111	1.7319	120.53
2.8989	2.4325	1.7319	120.53
201.71	168.90	1.7319	120.53
102.50	86.10	1.7319	120.53

## OTHER INDICATORS

£/\$	DM/£	¥/£	Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Real Gdp
18.06	0.18	22.67	114.00	3.90	109.7	Jan
312.55	-3.80	380.65	159.20	3.6	153.76	Nov
4.79	-0.03	4.88	Base Rates	7.00	5.75	

www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg

## Pilkington to cut 6,000 jobs in bid to save £200m

Pilkington, the troubled glass manufacturer, yesterday announced a £200m restructuring programme and the loss of up to 6,000 jobs. Andrew Yates finds that Pilkington was forced to make the move to survive in an increasingly competitive glass market and more jobs are likely to go.

More than 1,000 jobs are to be lost in Pilkington's glass operations in the UK as part of radical restructuring that will see up to 6,000 jobs go around the world.

The move comes just 18 months after the former chief executive, Roger Leventon, announced a £155m restructuring plan with the loss of 1,900 jobs. However, Paulo Scaroni, who replaced Mr Leventon last May in a boardroom shake-up, admitted the company's previous

attempt to cut costs had not nearly been enough and that the group still remained uncompetitive compared to its leading rivals.

Asked why the group had not moved faster, sooner, Sir Nigel Rudd, Pilkington's chairman, said: "It was the culture of the business and the way it was run. The company has changed massively since Paulo Scaroni has arrived."

Sir Nigel is believed to have been instrumental in ousting Mr Leventon and appointing Mr Scaroni as his replacement. Mr Scaroni said: "This used to be a federation of companies rather than a global organisation, with 20 different companies with different logos. We are putting the 'P' back in Pilkington with one name and brand around the world."

He pointed out that the old Pilkington had no fewer than 10 different corporate magazines and little co-operation between different executives in different countries.

Mr Scaroni has reversed Mr Leventon's policy of expanding into downstream operations, including glass cutting and double-glazing products. This business lost more than £30m last year and Pilkington is closing down or selling 60 of its 170 downstream operations

in Europe. More than 30 businesses in the UK will go in an attempt to eradicate losses.

Even then, Pilkington admitted it would take at least two years to become as productive as its leading competitors. And the current restructuring programme is only the first stage in an aggressive plan to cut costs.

Pilkington plans to put aside another £20m each year to cover future redundancies, which implies it could reduce its head count by as much as 800 every 12 months.

Mr Scaroni added: "I am optimistic for the future. We are a market leader in a growing

market with a good workforce. Our success is compulsory."

Analysts believe Pilkington's cost-saving plan has not come a moment too soon. The group announced a 12 per cent fall in operating profits to £82m for the six months to September.

Pilkington was hit by an alarming slump in the price of the glass it supplies to the car market in the US. Profits in the US fell to £20m (£37m).

One analyst said: "Pilkington is not over the worst yet. It still has to contend with the ups and downs of the world-wide glass market, which has proved to be very volatile in the past."

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## Replacement name for GMG Brands meets with scorn in the City

After months of intensive research and at a cost of £250,000, Grand Metropolitan and Guinness have come up with Diageo as the new name for their £24bn merged food and drinks conglomerate.

However Andrew Yates reports that the tide has been met with widespread scepticism in the City.

Tony Greener and George Bull, respectively the chairmen of Guinness and GrandMet, said in a joint statement: "Every day, all around the world, millions of people enjoy our brands. Based on the Latin word for 'day' and the Greek word for 'world', Diageo captures what this company is all about."

A Guinness spokesman said Wolff Olins had talked to people in 70 countries around the world to come up with the name. The old name, GMG Brands, was "clearly unworkable" and had been panned in

the City for looking back rather than forward. "At least this new name means something rather than some of the other names I could mention."

But the new name for what will become the biggest spirits company in the world has failed to capture the imagination of City observers. One analyst said: "GMG Brands was bad enough but this is ridiculous. What on earth does it mean and how the hell do you pronounce it?"

One analyst said the name sounded more like a foreign make of car than a serious

food and drinks business. Another thought it was inspired by England's new Rugby captain, Lawrence Dallaglio, or the controversial Argentinean footballer, Diego Maradona.

The new name is believed to have cost Guinness and GrandMet £250,000. They employed Wolff Olins, the advertising and design specialists, last May, soon after announcing the merger, to come up with a new image for the new group. Diageo will operate in more than 200 countries around the world.

The new name should also

be displayed outside the group's main office and on all its stationery and annual report from the start of next year. However, Diageo will have to be ratified by shareholders when they vote on the merger at a meeting scheduled for the end of next month. GrandMet and Guinness do not plan to change any drinks brand names.

The US Federal Trade Commission is likely to ratify the merger within the next few weeks, subject to the disposal of some drinks brands.

Outlook page 25



'Not everything in black and white makes sense'

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

### How to survive a correction

What stocks should risk-averse investors be buying now? Assuming they want to stay in equities at all, a natural shift would be from cyclical to defensive, high-yielding shares. But this strategy is more appropriate for a recession.

The UK economy is nowhere near a slump. Instead, what we seem to be seeing is a correction to overheated share prices. So probably the best advice, dull though it may be, is to sit tight and do nothing.

However, for those who feel the need to rejig their portfolio, moving to shares which are less volatile than the market and which have a pure domestic focus is a sound general strategy.

Looking in detail, here some broad recommendations to surviving a stock market correction.

1. Avoid companies with exposure to Asia. Unlike the UK and US, which are enjoying booming economies, Asia is going through a real downturn. Growth across the region is slowing and demand is weakening. That threatens to affect the financial performance of companies with significant Asian interests.

Those to be wary of include Asian-focused banks like HSBC and Standard Chartered. Also risky are stocks with significant Asian interests such as Cable & Wireless, Unilever and Reckitt & Colman and big exporters to the region. Rolls-Royce is one of the most exposed engineers to Asia.

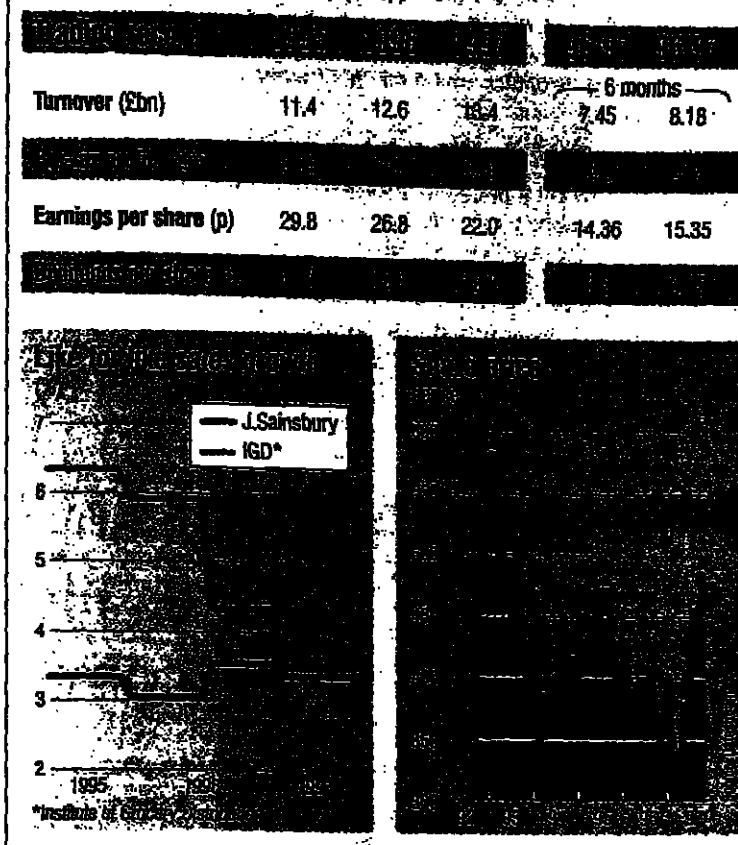
With world trade likely to be affected by the Asian slump, safety seekers might think twice about airlines and hotel companies and UK luxury brand retailers which depend on Far Eastern tourism - Hamleys, Liberty and Royal Doulton for example.

2. Stay with quality companies focused on the UK domestic market. Looking at market sectors, good bets include banking, property, food retailers, general retailers, leisure companies and big pharmaceuticals.

The banking sector is being helped by resilient bond yields, a consequence of volatile share prices. Domestic banks are safe, defensive stocks pro-

### J.Sainsbury: At a glance

Market value: £9.3bn, share price 500p (+28p)



vided that interest rates and inflation remain low. There are no signs of inflation picking up and recent share price falls may well take the froth off consumer spending levels.

Within the sector Abbey National and Halifax look attractive. Both are highly cash generative and are in fast-growing markets like consumer finance. Halifax has underperformed by 15 per cent in recent times and Abbey looks like one of the cheapest banks in the sector.

The property sector is also a safe bet as long as interest rates remain low. At the moment rents are soaring to levels not seen since the late 1980s, without the development frenzy, and property yields at 7.4 per cent remain higher than gilt yields. Two of the safest and best-managed players are Land Securities, the sector bellwether with around a quarter of the UK

quoted property sector, and British Land, with a first rate asset base.

Domestic food retailers like Asda, which has no overseas exposure, and Tesco look attractive. So do select domestic retailers like Dixons, which has good cash flow, a strong position in growth markets and a cheap rating.

Pharmaceuticals too look good value, driven by telephonic growth in demand for medicines. All three big pharma groups in the UK are more lowly rated than their US counterparts.

In the end the key to investment success, particularly in volatile times, is buying good quality companies and holding them.

That means a renewed focus on fundamentals - proven management, steady earnings growth and, vitally, strong cash flow. When markets look invincible these are too easily dismissed.

### Sainsbury makes steady progress

For a company that has taken a pounding over the past couple of years, things have finally started going right for Sainsbury. The shares, recommended here at 349p in May, have been making heady progress and yesterday nudged through the 500p barrier for the first time in four years, finishing 26p ahead at 500p yesterday. They have now risen by more than 60 per cent since their 309p low after the group's profits warning at the beginning of the year.

That fall was overdue but Sainsbury has still done well to rebuild faith in a company whose brand is still regarded as the strongest of the super-markets. Yesterday's better-than-expected half-year profits of £411m have further helped sentiment.

Product availability has improved considerably. A like-for-like sales increase of 4.2 per cent in the half year and 5 per cent in the six weeks since are encouraging, even though they have been helped by the Reward card loyalty scheme and longer opening hours. Margins have been held at 6.4 per cent.

Sainsbury is no longer striving to overtake Tesco as Britain's largest grocer, but its market share grew from 12.5 to 12.7 per cent in the year with the extra sales thought to be coming from the independent sector and the Co-op. The myth that all four majors cannot expand simultaneously, has, for now, been exploded.

In SavaCentre, the plan to concentrate on food ranges rather than peripherals such as televisions and videos looks like a sensible approach.

The US, however, needs attention. At the group's wholly owned Shaw's subsidiary in Connecticut, a strike cost \$8m and profits fell 21 per cent. The City will be looking for Sainsbury to sort this business out first before it considers buying the rest of Giant, where profits were also affected by strikes.

On forecast profits of £735m this year, Sainsbury shares trade on a forward rating of 19, falling to 17. That is a premium to the market which management will have to deliver on its targets to sustain. Too high to chase at these levels but a solid hold.

## Body Shop disappointed with 'lacklustre' retail sales

Body Shop International, the environmentally friendly cosmetics retailer, is still struggling to revitalise sales and profits. As Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports, the US and Japan are the main markets giving grounds for concern.

And the turmoil in the financial markets of Thailand and Malaysia is beginning to affect trade there too.

Reporting a 4 per cent increase in first-half profits to £12.3m, the company said it was disappointed with a "lacklustre" performance. Stripping out new store openings, group sales fell by 1 per cent on the same period last year. This included 5 per cent falls in both the United States and Japan.

Gordon Roddick, chairman, said: "Retail sales around the world are not as strong as they

should be and we are not satisfied with this somewhat lacklustre performance."

Some analysts criticised the group's plans to persist with its store opening programme which will see another 50 outlets open in the second half, taking the total to 1,580 in 47 countries. However, the company justified its strategy, saying the programme enabled it to expand in new areas and that its franchise system prevented its operations across the world from becoming unwieldy.

In America, where Body Shop has been affected by copycat operators and a cut-throat retail environment, the group made an operating loss of £2.9m in the first half.

The company has been taking over franchise stores which have been doing poorly and at the end of August owned 181 out of 289.

There are plans to buy up to 30 more in the second half. Body Shop said it was facing heavy discounting from discounters in shopping malls.

Sales in Asia were badly affected by a weak performance

in Japan, where stores sales fell by 16 per cent. The company blamed a difficult retail environment, a low level of new product launches and increased local competition.

It also said it had suffered some problems with products being out of stock and cannibalisation from existing stores. Body Shop's head franchisee in Japan is now working to improve training, renovate some larger stores and develop customer loyalty programmes.

In the UK, same-store sales were 2 per cent ahead. The Body Shop direct operation, which sell goods through consultants at parties, has increased the number of consultants from 1,000 to 1,600 in the year to August.

A new store design, which has been tested in three outlets, will be extended to additional locations before a roll-out across all 257 UK shops.

Group sales in the six months to 30 August were 5 per cent up to £262m. The dividend was raised by 20 per cent to 1.8p. Body Shop shares rose 9p to 162.5p.

### Laporte ends restructuring with £20m sales

Laporte, the speciality chemicals group, yesterday announced it was to take a £46m exceptional charge and cut 150 jobs by selling one of its businesses and closing another down. The move signalled the end of the company's two-year reorganisation.

The company has sold part of its pet litter division to Volday, a division of American Colloids, and its related Spanish business has been bought by a Spanish investment company. The two disposals raised £20m.

Laporte is to close down the remainder of its pet litter business, along with its activated earth operations, which pro-

duce a substance used to purify cooking oil.

The company said that it was the end of the restructuring by Jim Leng, chief executive. However, Laporte would continue to review its operations.

Mr Leng said: "This is consistent with the group strategy we have been pursuing over the last two years. In future, this division will be concentrating on its higher added-value speciality products which have leading market positions."

Laporte's pet litter division has been hit by rising raw material costs, the strong pound, and increased competition. Its activated earth business has

also been affected by sterling. Yesterday's move follows last year's disposal of the US pet litter operations and the activated earth businesses in Peru, Brazil and Malaysia.

Since his appointment as chief executive two years, Mr Leng has closed or sold over a third of the company, to focus on high-margin speciality chemicals. During that period, Laporte has cut thousands of jobs and slashed the number of manufacturing sites 45 per cent.

In the six months to the end of June, Laporte's pre-tax profit before exceptional losses 11 per cent to £66.7m. The shares closed up 5p yesterday at 671p.

### Asda dumps plans to cut price of children's medicines

Asda Group was yesterday forced to abandon its price cuts announced on Monday on child healthcare products by the threat of legal action from the manufacturers concerned, a company spokesman said. The supermarkets group had intended to cut prices by 25 per cent on 10 products, including Thylax cough syrup made by Novartis, Superfled chewable vitamins from Ferrosan, Woodward's Grape Water from Seton Healthcare, Dextrinox cradle cap shampoo from Dendron and Sudocrem nappy rash cream made by Pharmax.

The Asda spokesman said five of the seven manufacturers concerned - Novartis, Pharmax, Dendron, Procter & Gamble and Seton Healthcare - threatened to seek injunctions to block the move. "They threatened to seek an injunction to force us to restore the prices and we gave an undertaking to the court that we would do so," he said. Asda would continue to campaign for the abolition of resale price maintenance agreements that allowed manufacturers to set sale prices, the spokesman said.

### US firm buys Visual Action

Caribiner International, a US provider of meetings, events and training programmes, will acquire Visual Action Holdings of the UK for £148m cash to boost its international presence. New York-based Caribiner will pay 295p per share, or a 49.4 per cent premium over Tuesday's closing price for Visual Action, an international hire company that provides equipment to the television and film industries.

### Tomkins tops high-pay list

Ian Duncan of Tomkins is the highest-paid finance director of a FTSE 100 company, with a package worth £912,000 last year, according to research published today by *Financial Director* magazine. The lowest paid is Thames Water's David Luffin, who earned £184,000. The survey also indicates that KPMG and Ernst & Young, the Big Six accountancy firms that last week announced merger plans, earned £88.6m from auditing FTSE 100 companies - just ahead of the £88.3m earned by Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, which have also announced merger plans.

### Depreciation rules change

The Accounting Standards Board is braced for opposition from brewers and hotel groups over its plans to tighten up the rules on how they and other companies account for the value of their properties. Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the ASB, said the proposals in *FRED17 Measurement of Tangible Fixed Assets*, published today, were important because they aimed to plug a number of loopholes and to increase consistency in the approach to depreciation. He said the proposed revaluation requirements, in particular, "should put an end to the present absurd situation where valuations in accounts that have become totally meaningless are nevertheless allowed to remain in those accounts unchanged".

### Tamaris signs Far East deal

Tamaris, the care homes company, has entered into an alliance with Wicky Suyanto, who has business interests in healthcare in Singapore and Malaysia. The alliance will involve the subscription for shares in Tamaris by Roseview International, a holding company owned by Mr Suyanto. Tamaris also plans to establish a new joint venture company in the Far East called Tamaris International.

## Tobacco litigation knocks BAT results

Increased provisions for pensions mis-selling and US tobacco litigation knocked BAT Industries' third-quarter results, released yesterday. Leo Paterson assesses the prospects for the soon-to-be demerged tobacco and financial services conglomerate.

David Alvey, finance director of BAT, said profits had been affected by a significant number of one-off items. BAT earned £1.73bn of pre-tax profits in the first nine months of 1997 - a fall of 14 per cent on 1996's figures.

However, he said that without one-off costs "the business was marginally ahead". The costs included an £85m increase in the provision by Allied Dunbar, the company's UK insurance business, for pension mis-selling as well as £114m of litigation settlements in Florida and Mississippi in the US.

BAT's tobacco business, which is due to be separated from its financial services stake, has had a tricky nine months' trading. Falling profits in the US were due not only to tobacco litigation but also to heavy discounting by the rival Philip Morris, which owns the Marlboro brand leader in the US market. Far Eastern activities were hit by "political and currency uncertainties", said Mr Alvey.

One analyst remarked yesterday: "One of BAT's key

challenges will be translating its position in key emerging markets into revenues and profits."

US tobacco litigation costs look set to plague BAT for at least the next year. Yesterday's figures did not include provisions for the recent Broin case, a class action brought by airline flight attendants who claimed they had suffered from passive smoking at work.

BAT's share of the Broin settlement comes to \$57m (£34m), and further settlements may have to be made in the next few months.

Three states - Texas, Minnesota and Ohio - are due to bring cases against the tobacco industry before next summer. Martin Broughton, BAT's chief executive, admitted yesterday that Minnesota's case, due to be heard January, was critical. Prospects for BAT's financial services business, which includes UK insurers Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star as well as the US insurer, Farmers, looked brighter.

Allied Dunbar, he added, appeared to be on target in dealing with pensions mis-selling cases - settlements have been accepted by 67 per cent of priority cases. Mr Broughton reckoned that no further increase in mis-selling provisions would be likely, unless there were further changes in regulation.

Analysts also predict that BAT's financial services will benefit from the merger with Zurich Insurance.

Shares in BAT closed at 540p, up 17p in a generally buoyant market.

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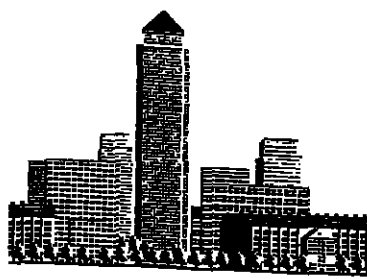
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BAT (9 mths)	17.7bn (18.1bn)	1.73bn (2.02bn)	32.5p (38.5p)	nt (-)
Body Shop (9)	122m (117m)	12.3m (11.8m)	3.8p (3.5p)	1.8p (1.5p)
Chatterton Ind (9)	152m (155.8m)	-7.0m (2.4m)	-7.8p (1.7p)	1p (2p)
Commercial Tech (9)	1.8m (2.7m)	0.58m (0.88m)	-0.08p (0.1p)	0.1p
Dalzell (9)	3.2m (3.9m)	-0.08m (-1.15m)	-0.18p (-3.12p)	nt (-)
Philips (9)	1.4m (1.5m)	32.0m (75.0m)	nt (2.2p)	11.75p (1.75p)
Sainsbury (9)	6.2bn (7.5m)	414m (283m)	15.35p (14.36p)	3.75p (3.5p)
Shaw's (9)	0.26m (0.85m)	-0.17m (0.33m)	-0.37p (0.72p)	nt
(9) - Final (9) - Interim (1996) to be paid on a P0				





## OUTLOOK ON THE FED CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH. THE NEW NAME FOR GMG BRANDS AND CUTS AT PILKINGTON

# Why won't Greenspan say what he means?

Stock market investors hoping for a little guidance during these turbulent times from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, would have been sadly disappointed by his testimony yesterday to the Joint Economic Committee of the US Congress. Mr Greenspan promised much in opening his address by saying he would devote the bulk of it to the present turbulence in financial markets.

He then went on to give a worthwhile, though by now somewhat familiar, analysis of the crisis in South-east Asia. There was a little correction on Wall Street seen so far enough to address the irrational exuberance in financial markets that he talked about in the same place a year ago. All he would say is that it is conceivable he would look back on recent events rather in the way we do at 1987, as "a salutary lesson in terms of its implications for the macroeconomy".

What he actually meant by this is far from clear, but as is often the case with Mr Greenspan, he probably intended it that way. Does he mean that inflationary pressures are indeed building in the US economy and that the markets have correctly anticipated this? Or does he simply mean that having lost a bit of its value, the market will now carry on upwards as it did in the late Eighties? Mr Greenspan knew that he had it in his gift to calm financial markets and he plainly would not have been forgiven had he done anything else. Nor does Mr Greenspan want a crash, with its damaging economic accompaniments.

But does he really believe Wall Street is now fairly valued? That seems doubtful. Apparently, there were scenes of mayhem and violence outside some US share shops in the wake of President Bill Clinton's statement on the stock markets last Tuesday. Small investors fought each other to jump the queue and get their buy orders in as his soothing remarks were broadcast across the airwaves. Any fall is a buying opportunity, the argument goes. What that tells you is that Wall Street is still in the grip of speculative fever. The gyrations of the market yesterday is as clear an indication as they come of the dangers of this position.

The buying at the moment is coming from the American masses, from small investors. The big professional players are either staying on the sidelines or selling. This does not look like a formula for a sharp rebound. If our own market here in London still looks reasonable value compared with Wall Street, you only have to remember the way the Asian markets managed to trash the mighty Dow to realise that we can never be immune here in Europe to the speculative excess taking place on the other side of the Atlantic. Fasten your seatbelts.

## A linguistic abomination

Guinness and GrandMet have had their revenge on Bernard Arnault. Forced into a shabby commercial compromise with

their troublesome Gallic shareholder, they have at least inflicted on him a brutal philological assault.

Being a Frenchman, Mr Arnault cares about the purity of words. He won't mourn the passing of GMG Brands, a playful example of the bland acronyms that have replaced the stock market's most illustrious monikers. But he will shudder at the linguistic abomination it is to be replaced by - Diageo - and the £250,000 cost of the facelift.

Mixing and matching the Latin word for "day" with the Greek for "world" is not the only example in English of an unnatural neologism. You only have to switch on your television set (Gk. tele, Lat. vision) to hear a constant stream of such amoral (Gk. private prefix, Latin ethics) formations.

Even so, Mr Arnault's sensitivities will be bruised by the plain ugliness of the word. Perhaps we would be gullible (Eng. gull, Latin suffix) to believe an enormous bureaucracy (Fr. bureau, Gk. kratia) could do any better. GMG's linguistic barbarism is doomed to failure. Words live if euphonious and appropriate. We may do the Hoovering but what hope slipping out for a swift Diageo? To be fair, dropping the Guinness brand name in favour of Diageo is not proposed. But what, it may be asked, is wrong with calling the holding company Guinness as well, a more internationally recognised name than Diageo is ever likely to be.

British companies have a sad talent for

linguistic vandalism in the name of simplicity or globalisation or some other nonsense, and the trend appears to be accelerating.

Remember the reliable-sounding Tom Cowie? Because one of the company's continental offshoots thought that sounded too boyish, the operator of the number 4 to Waterloo is now known trivially as Arriva. What would old Montague Burton have made of the wholly inappropriate, Arcadia? Saatchi & Saatchi - now that had some style - is Cordiant. Harrisons & Crosfield, a nice British sounding name if ever there was one, is to become Elementis for goodness sake.

It was not always this way. Who could forget the marvellous Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail and Steam Packet Company, or believe Electrical and Musical Industries was not lessened by its reincarnation as EMI. Three cheers for Peninsular & Oriental, yah boo to BT. Tony Greener and George Bull seem honourable men. They should rethink this atrocity or go the whole hog and call the damn thing Maradona.

## Pilkington chief had to get tough

Pilkington has been all at sea for more than 10 years now. Restructuring has followed restructuring with little success. Over the last two years, the company's share price has collapsed. Too slow to cut costs, this family-run business has lost its competi-

tive edge as hungry rivals have stepped up their own restructuring programmes and moved ahead of the game.

Now things are changing. The last family board member, Anthony Pilkington, left in 1995. Unfortunately, Pilkington's difficulties were so deep rooted it has taken Sir Nigel Rudd, the outsider brought in to revive Pilkington in the face of growing disenchantment from shareholders, the best part of two years to stamp his authority on the group. Roger Leverton, the former chief executive, ultimately paid the penalty for doing too little, too late, and was ousted last May.

Sir Nigel's hand-picked successor, Paulo Scaroni, is a bruiser with a reputation as a vicious cost cutter. In a sense Pilkington is his dream company. There's plenty of fat to go for. Mr Scaroni has duly really wielded the axe and is now in the process of cutting 6,000 jobs, closing down 60 loss making businesses across Europe and revamping the group's overseas activities. If this seems a harsh response, Mr Scaroni may be saving the company with his brutality.

In truth Mr Scaroni had little choice but to get tough. Pilkington has long had the worst productivity among the world's glass making giants. Without resorting to strong measures, it would have struggled to survive in its present form. Up until now Pilkington has always underestimated the size of the restructuring needed to turn the group around. The only real question is whether Mr Scaroni has cut deep enough.

## British Gas to cut domestic power bills by 15 per cent

British Gas threw down the gauntlet to the electricity companies yesterday with plans to slash domestic power bills by 15 per cent next year when the market opens to competition. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, examines a move which could fuel the pressure for consolidation in the power industry.

Centrica, the demerged British Gas supply business, has already begun bombarding consumers with a multi-million pound press and television advertising campaign to prepare for its assault on the domestic electricity market, but yesterday it gave the first indication of the scale of its planned price cuts. It said discounts for households that switched from their regional electricity company (REC) would be 15 per cent, on average, below current prices.

Competition is being introduced to 20 million electricity consumers over six months, kicking off in April with Canterbury, Chester, Hull and Norwich. Only the four RECs that are ready to take part in the first phase - Eastern, Manweb, Seaboard and Yorkshire - will initially be able to poach customers in each other's markets.

Though British Gas declined to give further details of its tariffs, which are likely to vary, the headline cut would knock £40 off an average £270 power bill. The company aims to sign up some 2 million homes as electricity customers in the first two years.

The discount is more than double the 6 per cent average reduction most RECs are due to make next spring under a new price formula set recently by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator. The price cap has aroused strong protests from some RECs, which argue that meagre profit margins on their power supply businesses could be wiped out. Electricity supply typically accounts for just 6

per cent of bills, with more than half going towards generation costs and 33 per cent in distribution and transmission costs.

Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading, insisted he was not planning to lose money in the electricity market, though he admitted that the start-up costs for the first few customers would be "horrendous".

He said: "I'm expecting to make a profit on it but not a huge profit. This is an entry business. The costs will be sustainable when we have a reasonable number of customers."

Mr Alexander said the biggest savings over the RECs were from cheaper generation contracts and more efficient administration and billing systems. British Gas has built a separate electricity billing computer using technology developed by Seaboard and Anderson Consulting.

The company declined to reveal whether generation contracts had been signed yet, or which generating companies were involved. But Mr Alexander said: "We are certainly



Bright future: Roy Gardiner, chief executive of Centrica, is behind domestic price cuts

Photograph: Rui Xavier

buying our electricity cheaper on average than RECs." British Gas is the only company outside the electricity industry so far to set up a rival supply op-

eration. The prospect of little or no profits in the competitive energy markets has already dented the big supermarket chains and oil companies.

However the scale of the British Gas price cuts is likely to increase the pressure from RECs to be allowed to merge their supply business. Though

some of the more determined power suppliers are likely to match the British Gas tariff, other RECs could see their customer bases eroded swiftly.

## MPs want to approve MPC members

The Commons Treasury Select Committee yesterday demanded the right to vet members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which was given the power to set interest rates in May. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, looks at the committee's first report of the new parliamentary session.

The cross-party Treasury Select Committee admitted yesterday its demand to approve candidates for the newly formed MPC was "controversial" but said it was necessary to ensure the newly independent Bank of England was answerable and accountable.

Giles Radice, the Labour MP who chairs the committee, said he wanted the Government to use the Bank of England Bill, which was published on Tuesday, to include the vetting power. He said the screening would not follow the American model of inquiring into people's backgrounds and sexual history.

The committee suggested the new act should give it 30 days after a nomination was made to object. If it did so, it would make a report to the Commons, saying why it did not believe the candidate met the desired criteria of "competence and personal independence" and would recommend the appointment should not be confirmed.

The committee said that even if the act did not give it the power it was asking for, it intended to institute hearings about the composition of the MPC. The report, published yesterday, also said the terms of office of the three non-Bank members of the MPC should be increased to at least five years from the current three to avoid political influence over the appointments.

## Life insurers add to stakeholder pension debate

Many of the UK's biggest life insurers yesterday joined in the increasingly intense debate over Labour's proposals for so-called stakeholder pensions, calling for cheap retirement funds, investing in equities, to be set up to run alongside the existing basic state pension. Clifford German examines the proposals.

Legal & General, Pearl and West Life released their submissions to the Department of Social Security (DSS), which is co-ordinating the Govern-

ment review of the UK pensions system. The documents are part of a flood of more than 1,000 separate submissions that have reached the DSS, a spokesman said yesterday.

The insurers' documents form part of the Government's decision to consult on the future of state pensions.

Among insurers' proposals, geared to winning a slice of the many billions of pounds they hope will be funnelled into the new-style schemes, is the scrapping of Serps, the state earnings-related pension scheme. Serps would be replaced by stakeholder pensions, to which insurers think employers should be made to contribute.

Contributions should be invested initially in shares (Autif

favours unit trusts), switching to fixed interest securities as retirement approaches. All pension funds should offer life insurance in the event of death before retirement, and both widows and widowers should get pensions.

Among the specific proposals from insurers are suggestions that charges should be fixed regardless of the size of contributions, with no initial charges, no penalties for stopping and starting contributions, no transfer costs, exit charges and a single annual management charge, ideally no more than 1 per cent of contributions. Approved pensions would receive a Government "kitemark", according to NatWest Life.

Individuals could choose their own retirement date at any time after reaching 60 (with some pension providers pitching for a retirement age as early as 50) or when they have earned a minimum entitlement (say 50 per cent above the income support level). The funds would then be used to buy an annuity, pegged to rise in line with inflation.

Tax-free lump sums would only be allowed in order to buy a policy to provide long-term care. Funds should be transferable and members should be issued with pass-books which could be regularly updated with current values of individual pensions.

Trade unions and affinity groups would become "gateways" to the new stakeholder pension system, using their bulk purchasing power to sponsor low-cost managed pensions to their members.

Differences emerged yesterday as to the minimum amount of contributions, with Pearl advocating £100 a month, Legal & General prefers £2,000 a year, and the Association of British Insurers opting for £3,000 a year.

The existing system of personal pensions should continue unchanged, to cater for sophisticated investors who want de-luxe pensions and are willing to pay for them.

The Treasury would like to end tax relief on contributions and have pensions paid tax-free. Legal & General wants a new rate of relief at 33.3 per cent on stakeholder contributions.

British Telecom and British Sky Broadcasting were given a clear signal yesterday by Don Cruickshank, the telecommunications regulator, that their joint move into digital satellite broadcasting would not face opposition from UK competition watchdogs.

British Interactive Broadcasting, the digital satellite business in which both BT and BSkyB have 32.5 per cent stakes, will offer home banking, shopping and education services through subsidised set-top boxes. The group plans to offer Sky's bundled TV programme packages in the spring, with the full interactive service following in the summer.

## Ofcom clears way for BIB to move into digital venture

Mr Cruickshank, who has submitted evidence to an Office of Fair Trading investigation into BIB, said his initial fear was that "two great, ugly monopolists were getting together". But he argued that the market for interactive broadcasting was so new that it would be inappropriate to saddle the venture with restrictive conditions.

The comments came as Ofcom, the telecommunications watchdog, launched proposals to ensure that BSkyB did not restrict access to its satellite broadcast delivery platforms. It said BSkyB should charge itself the same rates to use the technology as it offered to competitors.

Chris Godsmark

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## Happy Diwali

CALL	Swiftcall	B.T.	Savings
India	60p	£1.20	50%
Pakistan	80p	£1.33	40%
Bangladesh	66p	£1.33	50%
USA	14p	24p	42%



## Rank misses out on the euphoria among the blue chips

### MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN  
STOCK  
MARKET  
REPORTER  
OF THE YEAR

Shares staged a predictable rally with Footsie scoring a 116.4 points gain to 4,871.8 in often ebullient trading.

But much of the euphoria was lost on Rank, the leisure group due to produce a trading statement today. True, the shares were at one time up 27.5p, but then small but persistent selling took its toll, pushing the price to 326p, lowest for four years. The shares closed at 332p, down 10p.

Rank is not expected to offer a particularly upbeat statement. Profits collapsed last year and were down at the interim stage.

It will be surprising, however, if the update is particularly gloomy. The share fall probably reflects the market's general unease over the group. It should at least have fared reasonably well during the important summer months.

And it is making presentations to analysts next week, exercises which rarely herald bad news.

Still, the market is fretting about the group's strategic direction. There are worries about its bingo and holiday camp operations and there is a distinct feeling it needs to mount a significant takeover. (Greenalls, the pub chain, has been mentioned as a possible target.)

The shares have underperformed by more than 30 per cent this year, despite an ambitious reshaping by Andrew Pearce, who arrived as chief executive from English China Clays in April last year. When he joined the shares were around 545p.

Rank was one of a handful of blue chips to miss the revivalist party. Guinness was another, flat at 541p as the market swallowed the £250,000

arrival of Diageo, replacing G&M Brands, for the combined Grand Metropolitan/Guinness cocktail.

Once again the market enjoyed a busy day with, it would appear, private investors providing much of the action with a rash of small deals and the ramifications of order-driven trading lifting the bargains to a remarkable 84,305. Mid and SmallCap shares joined the fun although blue chips generally made the running.

Schroders, the investment group, hammered in the melt-down, had the satisfaction of topping the blue-chip leader board. RioTinto, helped by figures, Kingfisher and Whitebread were others to stage comebacks.

SmithKline Beecham gained 22p to 552p. Stories there was a "theoretical possibility" its patent on its anti-depressant

treatment, Serenol, was in danger were denied. The alleged patent problem was apparently mentioned during conversations by one investment house. SB quickly called what it described as a "small, informal analysts meeting" to refute the claim. "We have good, solid patent cover up and beyond 2,005," said a spokesman.

Cadbury Schweppes, up

10.5p to 605.5p, benefited from an investment presentation and increased US soft drink sales. Defeat in a chocolate feud with the Swiss made little impression.

Abbey National, up 5p at 915p, and Halifax, 12p at 697p, were encouraged by NatWest Securities support and Farnure Gordon fuelled interest among transport shares, suggesting they were 30 per cent undervalued with the market ignoring share buy-back and special dividend possibilities.

Cornwall advanced 19.5p to 356p, FirstBus 6.5p to 203.5p and Go-Ahead 4.5p to 488p.

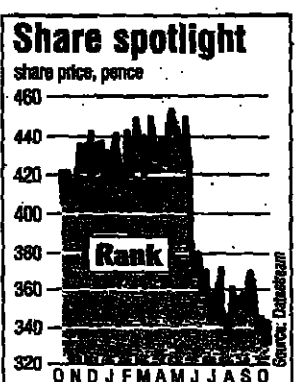
Eurotherm, the electronic equipment group, hardened 13p to 400.5p following dinner, hosted by Henderson Crosthwaite, with 14 fund managers.

Pentland, the sporting goods group, added 10p to 101p as it disclosed another

lucrative disposal. It is selling its Holmes consumer products business for £105.1m.

Visual Action, with a 44 per cent gain to 285p, achieved the day's best result, thanks to a takeover bid. The audio-visual group has agreed a 295p cash offer from Caribiner International, a US group. Electronic Retailing Systems, providing shelf labelling systems, jumped 57.5p to 412.5p after announcing a merger with a rival, Telepanel Systems. Jardinerie, an interior plant company, fell 6p to 69.5p, a low, following a profits warning. The shares were floated at 144p last year.

Tanamar, the nursing homes chain, held at 2.5p. Roseview International, which embraces Singaporean and Malaysian interests of businessman Wicky Suyanto, plans to lift its stake to 17.8 per cent. It is paying £3.15m (2.75p a share).



### TAKING STOCK

Cathay International, with hotels in China, jumped 4.5p to 14.5p in busy trading. The shares have been as high as 18.5p in the past year. The group suffered a sharp profits fall last year; the sudden buying seemed to be based on the theory margins had improved considerably this year.

Since the Stock Exchange introduced order-driven trading last week turnover at its little Tradeprice rival has jumped from around £10m a day to between £30 and £40m.

Yesterday it was a record £82m with deals in Shell accounting for £33.8m. Its own shares rose 8p to 128p.

Dalkeith Inns, a shelf, was unchanged at 19.5p. It intends to return cash to shareholders if it cannot find a suitable acquisition.

Stock	High	Low	Stock	High	Low
Alcoholic Beverages			Food Producers		
2000 Alcon Ltd	10.00	9.80	2000 Asda Stores	1.00	0.95
2000 Carlsberg	1.00	0.95	2000 Asda Stores	1.00	0.95
2000 Carlsberg	1.00	0.95	2000 Asda Stores	1.00	0.95
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Stock	High	Low	Stock	High	Low
Banking			Food Producers		
2000 Bank of Scotland	1.00	0.95	2000 Asda Stores	1.00	0.95
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Stock	High	Low	Stock	High	Low
Banking			Food Producers		
2000 Bank of Scotland	1.00	0.95	2000 Asda Stores	1.00	0.95
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597-46	Trinity Ind	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-47	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-48	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-49	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-50	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-51	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-52	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-53	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-54	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-55	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
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597-65	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-66	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-67	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-68	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-69	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-70	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-71	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-72	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-73	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-74	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-75	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-76	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-77	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-78	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-79	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-80	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-81	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-82	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-83	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-84	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-85	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-86	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-87	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-88	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-89	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-90	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-91	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-92	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-93	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-94	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-95	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-96	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-97	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-98	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
597-99	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700
598-00	United Tech	40.00	40.00	12	367	700

Seqs. volumes: 903.6m		trades: 84,304		GBits. index: 99.81	
Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes					
Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol	Stock	Vol
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
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Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m
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Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	12.9m	Bank of America	



# The economy is in good shape – it's just shares that are struggling



**KEVIN GARDINER**  
ON WHY THE STOCK MARKET WEAKNESS IS NOT A THREAT

Following Wall Street's tumble on Monday, a White House spokesman said: "The President is confident the fundamentals of the American economy are strong." The choice of words chimed uncomfortably with President Hoover's comment in 1929 that "the fundamental business of the economy... is on a sound and prosperous basis". But as far as we can see, Mr Clinton is right. And his words apply just as much to the UK, where we think that the past week's weakness in share prices represents an opportunity, not a threat.

There is, as yet, little sign of the downturn in domestic business which would place corporate profits under pressure. And despite the widely proclaimed lack of pricing power and the strong pound, prices are rising more quickly than costs for most firms. Strong growth in output, together with wider profit margins, is a recipe for solid growth in corporate profits, and this is what we've been seeing. The likely hit from the loss of Asian earnings is modest: even if such earnings completely disappeared, the impact on total UK profits would be of the order of 5 per cent.

Some commentators argue that a lower stock market will itself have an impact on the economy by making consumers poorer and more reluctant to spend. In practice, however, such wealth effects are unlikely to be large.

In aggregate, UK consumers have roughly £1.5 trillion invested in the global securities markets, with the bulk in the form of stock market investments. If distributed equally, this would work out at roughly £70,000 per household – which sounds both surprising and significant. But consumers have as much wealth again in their homes and bank deposits.

And most stock market investments take the form of a long-term pension fund or endowment policy.

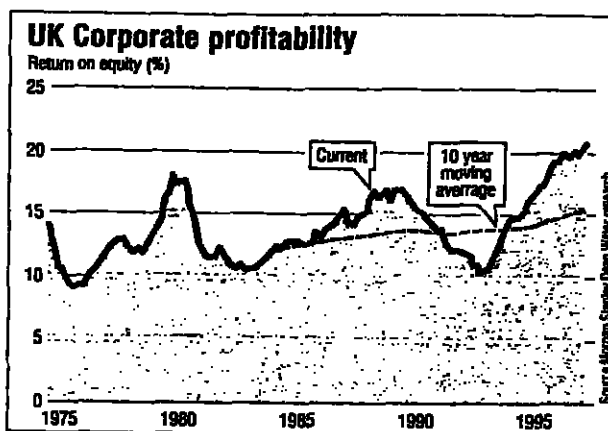
Moreover, the rise in the market this year has been rapid. Even after Tuesday's fall, the FTSE 100 index was still some 15 per cent above its levels at the end of 1996. And this ignores any free shares received as a result of building society demutualisations.

If wealth effects were important and fast-acting, we would have seen them at work as share prices rose, in the shape of a noticeable decline in the proportion of disposable income which is saved. But the consumer saving ratio appears to have been stable, at historically high levels.

The 1987 episode provides supporting evidence for the idea that wealth effects will be minimal. Then, economists agonised over the extent to which the October crash would hit economic growth.

Many cut their forecasts for 1988 sharply, only to find that the economy actually accelerated. It was inflation, not recession, which was the big risk after the 1987 crash.

Of course, too strong an economy now could be bad news for share prices if it pushed interest rates up faster than corporate profits. British



interest rates have already risen faster than elsewhere, and the Bank of England is unlikely to be deterred from raising rates still further simply because of the weak stock market, though it may not act as quickly as it otherwise would.

However, it is long-term interest rates, or gilt yields, which matter most to the market, and these have actually fallen, from 7.6 per cent to a 10-year gilt at the end of 1996 to just 6.6 per cent now.

Several factors have triggered this. The new and unexpected independence of the Bank of England has boosted investor confidence in UK monetary policy. The possibility of eventual participation in EMU has pulled yields down towards German levels.

And shrinking government borrowing has left the Treasury in effect buying back stock, keeping gilt prices high and yields low. None of these factors will be quickly reversed, and a big rise in gilt yields currently looks unlikely.

The immediate shape of the economy, then, doesn't look particularly frightening. But in addition to these short-term cyclical considerations, there are several long-term trends in place which are positive for UK shares, all the more so because in some cases they are still not fully appreciated.

UK companies are more profitable than they've been for a generation, with the return on equity comfortably outstripping the last cyclical peak (see graph). The trend rate of growth in real corporate earnings in recent years has been easily outpacing the rest of the economy, and with the share of profits in GDP still unremarkable when viewed in the longer historical context, there is no reason why this shouldn't continue for a while yet, pushing the return on equity up still further. And this is high-quality profitability. Growth in corporate earnings is much less volatile than in the past two business cycles, and it is being delivered without burdening balance sheets. Eighties-style, with massive borrowing or ill-considered acquisitions.

Nor is the expansion of capacity which is taking place yet big enough to dilute returns directly: indeed, with the equity market at these levels, many companies will take the opportunity to buy back their own shares rather than to expand.

More generally, the UK's relatively high inflation rate looks much less worrying when compared to the rate of economic growth.

Inflation and GDP growth rates are pretty much neck-and-neck these days, the best sustained performance since the Sixties, and the gap between the UK and the other developed

economies in this respect has all but closed.

Measured unemployment has fallen to levels approaching those in the US, with a return to the 1986 peak all but inconceivable: this should be a less divisive cycle than the last two.

And there are even signs, at last, of a structural improvement in the balance of payments. The previously remorseless post-war decline in the key manufacturing account seems to have stopped: this might yet be the first cycle since the war not to be marked by a new low in the balance of payments.

To investors, all of these things are worth paying for. But while the overall performance of corporate UK and of the wider economy is probably better than at any time since the Sixties, the valuations placed on UK shares have looked less remarkable, even after allowing for the impact of the July Budget on dividend taxation. They have also lagged behind those seen in the US and continental Europe.

The immediate trigger for last week's slide was a sharp fall in the Hong Kong market, rather than any bad domestic news. This is no guarantee that share prices will quickly stabilise or rebound. Investment is an unavoidably subjective process and, in a capitalist economy, goods and services – and shares – are worth only what people are willing to pay for them.

This is a humbling lesson, because it follows that there may be no such thing as fair value. All we can do, as analysts, is point out when the economy clearly isn't "fundamentally sound", and how current stock market prices compare to the rules of thumb which we think have recently been working best. And at the moment it looks to me as if the good news on the economy and corporate finances is not "in the market".

Kevin Gardiner is a senior economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Gosh, they are all happy souls at the Personal Investment Authority, the soon-to-disappear financial services regulator. Not content with a summer party, the boys and girls who watch over our finances are to host a Christmas bash.

Set for 17 December, the party will also mark the final appearance of the PIA's chief executive, Colette Bowe. Clearly determined to ensure a good turnout at her last hurrah, the authority appears to be imposing a three-line whip on staff.

Hence the decree from on high that all 18 employees at the PIA's Edinburgh office should be in attendance. Before now, they held their own celebrations. Not this year, though.

But what about the hefty cost of fares? No problem: all staff will be flown down to London for free. What about accommodation for the Edinburgh attendees? No problem here either: they will be put up free of charge in a swanky London hotel for the night. What about those who would rather be at home with their loved ones? No worries: they will be able to bring their spouses down at no extra cost.

How does the PIA propose to justify spending its members' money on airfares and hotel accommodation? Silly question: simply arrange for the party to follow a vital half-day training seminar.

The PIA's answer to questions on this matter is a charming "no comment". "We do not feel this is an issue that needs to be discussed in public," said a spokeswoman, primly.

So where do ex-Cabinet ministers go when they tire of life on the front bench? Into the cash-rich private sector, of course. And the former chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is certainly no exception to the rule.

Two weeks ago came Mr Clarke's appointment as non-executive deputy chairman at tobacco and financial services giant BAT. Then yesterday's announcement that he is to act as guru to Daiwa Europe Limited, a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Daiwa Securities.

So far, all sounds fine and dandy. No doubt Daiwa, whose Tokyo parent has become embroiled in the Japanese pay-off scandal, could

use what Alex Munn, head of Daiwa Europe, calls Mr Clarke's "experience, connections and judgement". The only problem is that cigar aficionado Mr Clarke may not be able to light up while holding court. Daiwa Europe resides in a designated no-smoking building.

Talking of BAT, it seems Martin Broughton and friends could have some desks to fill at Globe House, BAT's soon-to-be new London home. The proposed move from BAT's Victoria Street HQ to Temple's Globe House was announced by Mr Broughton last February.

The original idea was that BAT's top brass would move lock, stock and barrel to the new premises. Now, following news that BAT is to marry its financial services off to Zurich Insurance, the plan is a little different.

Tobacco staff are still on course to move to Globe House. But financial services employees are off to either BAT's Arlington Street offices or their new masters in Zurich.

So how can BAT put the empty space at Globe House – which is certainly not going to be a smoke-free zone – to good use? "Perhaps any spare space could be let out as meeting rooms to companies where people like to smoke," joked a BAT's spokesman. Any suggestions for likely takers, Mr Clarke?

Mike Williams, the Treasury official who squeezed the dreaded windfall tax out of the privatised utilities, has found a worthy match for his bargaining skills. The word is that Mr Williams' negotiating tactics failed him miserably when faced with the prospect of bagging in the fevered atmosphere of a Bangkok flea market. Mr Williams was in Thailand as part of a high-level UK delegation, including John Michell, the head of the DTT's energy unit, despatched to wax lyrical about the benefits of privatisation.

In a Monty Pythonesque incident, the Treasury hard man was faced with a hugely inflated price for some T-shirt or other, when the moment came to beat his adversary down, responded by stumping up the asking price with a wad of fast-depreciating Thai bank notes.

In contrast, I hear that Mr Michell, veteran of running battles with British Gas, managed to persuade another trader to part with half his stall by cunningly pretending he was set to buy the other half as well.

The trip itself rapidly turned into a Far Eastern version of a Whitehall farce. Messrs Williams and Michell were paired with the unlikely combination of Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, and her arch adversary from the former British Gas, Steve Cropley. But the gang of four discovered the finance ministry needed rather more urgent assistance than privatisation advice, as the currency and then the government collapsed in swift succession.

### Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Australia	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500	0.6500
Canada	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000
Denmark	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300
EU	1.6360	1.6360	1.6360	1.6360
France	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660
Germany	0.1930	0.1930	0.1930	0.1930
Greece	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
Hong Kong	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000	0.1000
Italy	0.1360	0.1360	0.1360	0.1360
Japan	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070	0.0070
Netherlands	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660
New Zealand	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000	0.6000
Norway	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300
Portugal	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000	0.2000
Spain	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660	0.1660
Sweden	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300	0.1300
Switzerland	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000	0.7000

### Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	16.728	10.000
Brazil	10.432	10.000
China	8.284	10.000
Czech Rep	16.500	10.000
Egypt	0.0081	10.000
Ghana	0.0081	10.000
Hungary	0.0081	10.000
India	0.0081	10.000
Indonesia	0.0081	10.000
Korea	0.0081	10.000
Nigeria	0.0081	10.000

### Interest Rates

Country	3 month	1 yr	2 yr	5 yr	10 yr
UK	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Netherlands	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

### Money Market Rates

Country	Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
UK	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%	6.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

### Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Set	Open
Long Call	Dec-97	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
Short Put	Dec-97	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
Long Call	Dec-97	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
Short Put	Dec-97	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25

### Life FTSE 100 Index Option

Series	Call	Put	Call	Put
10000	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
20000	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
30000	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25

### Industrial Metals

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Aluminum	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Copper	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Gold	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Iron	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### Precious Metals

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Platinum	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Palladium	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Rhodium	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Silver	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### Agricultural

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Wheat	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Corn	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Soybeans	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Cotton	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### Other Stocks

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
Apple	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Microsoft	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Amazon	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Google	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### Latest Unit Trust Prices

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Europe	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Asia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### Spice Girls to play for Mandela

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Europe	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Asia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

### GOLF

Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Europe	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Asia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

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Alloy	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
UK	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Europe	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Asia	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000



## Women's challenge an education

Despite finishing well down the field in the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World yacht race, the all-woman crew of EF Education remain positive.

Stuart Alexander reports from Cape Town on a team proud of their achievements so far and ready to provide a more substantial challenge in the second leg.

To come in next to last with a smile all over your face as Christine Guillou, skipper of the EF Education women's team in the Whitbread Race, did in Cape Town at the weekend was testimony not to naivety but progress.

She leads the happiest crew in the boat park next to Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and one of her crew, the New Zealand Leah Newbold, says: "The atmosphere on the boat is fantastic."

The female side of the Swedish EF campaign is not a first. Clare Francis was the first woman Whitbread skipper, Tracy Edwards headed an all-woman crew in 1989/90, and the saga of the American all-woman crew put together by Nance Frank for 1993/4 continues.

After a coup in Punta del Este, Uruguay, Frank left, the boat was taken back by its owners, Heineken stepped in to

sponsor a reconstituted all-woman crew led by Dawn Riley, and four years later the American legal system has still to rule on whether Frank can sue four parties for a total of \$60m (£38m).

When it came to thoughts of who would win the 1997/8 race, the EF crew was written off, partly because they had made no secret of the disadvantage they felt they carried physically when it came to handling heavy sails in tough conditions.

They also acknowledge that their strategic and tactical options are at times limited by their ability to make changes to the sailing of the boat quickly enough. A different kind of cost-to-benefit analysis has to be made to that of some of their male counterparts.

But they feel there has been a strong plus side to the first 7,350 miles of the race. "Our boatspeed can match the others," Guillou says, "but it is difficult to make comparisons on a leg when the boats were so far apart. There is a good all-round enthusiasm on the boat, all the girls are very energetic and motivated. They want to get going."

Guillou, more accustomed to single or double-handed sailing on smaller boats and shorter courses, points - in the same way as her male counterparts who turned in results less sparkling than they expected - to the luck factor in the north to south Atlantic run.

Their additional problem was that where a strong crew of men could contemplate chang-



Spinnaker trimming on board the Swedish Whitbread challenger EF Education during the first leg of the race

Photograph: Team EF/Allsport

ing sails even for a few minutes because they could accomplish the job quickly to take advantage of a short-term opportunity, the women's crew had to calculate whether the disruption would be greater than the gain because of the extra time it took them to complete the same manoeuvre.

The attitude remains positive the whole time. Guillou says, "We really enjoy being on the boat and we are very strong mentally, even if we lack physical strength. This leg of 32 days was probably the longest we had all been at sea for at one time, but it never felt as though it was endless. We were pre-

pared to be out for a long time." Leah Newbold says: "We were also lucky that the last 1,000 miles was good sailing and went very quickly. We know we can sail the boat in every condition and most of us have been together for a long time now. We arrived with the boat in

good shape and, like everyone else, we are always learning."

Guillou expects to be more in touch with the fleet on the next leg to Fremantle and while knowing that all her rivals will be pushing things to the limit, it is always aware that she and her crew have to manage things at their own limit. "Maybe there

is a difference between us and the men, but the first rule is to complete the leg," she says.

"This is definitely the most competitive event I have ever been in and I am proud to be part of such a competitive fleet. It is inspirational," Newbold says. "It is the pinnacle of my career."

## American yacht forced to withdraw

A second blow in two days hit the Whitbread Round the World Race yesterday with the announcement that one of the three American entries, Dr Neil Barth's America's Challenge, was pulling out after completing only the first leg to Cape Town.

Barth said: "We have been the victims of unfortunate circumstances, which is thought to refer to a problem whereby cash paid by Mexican sponsors Cuervo, Corona, Herdez and Jago de Valle has disappeared along with the man who was managing it in Mexico. It is thought to involve about \$850,000 (£520,000).

The withdrawal reduces the fleet to nine and follows the departure the day before of Chris Dickson as skipper of another American yacht, Dennis Conner's Toshiba.

America's Challenge, seventh to arrive in Cape Town, was one of only two of the 10 starters not to be designed by Bruce Farr. Alan Andrews had been called in as designer by Barth, but there had been little chance to assess its true potential. The scoring system will, however, remain the same as it is based on entries, not starters.

Among the crew was Britain's Matt Humphries, skipper in 1993/4 of the Dolphin & Youth challenge. "We were very happy with the boat and we have all been let down," he said. "Had the boat come first or last, it wouldn't have made any difference."

One immediate consequence was that America's Challenge crew member Jared Henderson was recruited to fill the 12th place for the next leg on Grant Dalton's Merit Cup.

— Stuart Alexander



Who is the greatest footballer of all time? Now you can help us choose. Because England, the home of the world's greatest sport, is about to become the permanent venue for the International Football Hall of Fame, backed by the Independent and the Professional Footballers' Association. And we need you to decide which of the game's heroes should be first to be inducted.

Over the next few weeks with your help, we will pick the best 25 of all time to be inducted in November in the official Hall of Fame. To qualify, your pick must have played for his country and have retired for three years.

So get voting now. What we need you to do is nominate up to four players for election to the Hall of Fame. Simply follow the instructions on the right.

Internet: You can also cast your vote on the Internet at [www.sporting-life.com](http://www.sporting-life.com). This is how it all works.

● A player of any nationality can be elected. He must have been retired for three years and have gained a full cap. Anyone can make up to four nominations.

● A nomination must be sent to the International Football Hall of Fame on an Official Voting Form, by telephone to a registered number, or via the Internet.

● Voting ends on Sunday November 9, 1997. The five players with most nominations will automatically be elected.

● A Selection Committee made up of seven retired players from different countries, with a chairman from the PFA, will draw up a short list of 60 players from those who receive most votes. This list is given to a panel of football journalists, chaired by the Mirror's Harry Harris. Each will choose a top 20. The 20 players who receive most votes will be elected.

### YOUR VOTE COUNTS make sure you use it!

**Hall of Famers**

MY VOTE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

## Who is the greatest?

When selecting your players for the International Hall of Fame, you have the chance to make FOUR votes and four votes ONLY. Remember your votes count, as the top five players overall from all the votes received will automatically go into The Hall of Fame.

In the table below, we have listed 250 players who could all be in contention. To make your se-

lection, all you have to do is select your choice of up to four players. If you wish you may select only one, but FOUR is the maximum. Select up to four players, noting down their code numbers and then call 0930 565 996.

First of all, you will be asked to carry out a quick test to determine what type of phone you have. You will then be directed to enter your chosen play-

ers codes. At the end of the call, you will be asked to leave your name and address. Your votes will be registered against your name.

**VOTE NOW on: 0930 565 996** or use the form on the left and send it to: The Independent, Hall of Fame, PO Box 6927, London E3 3NZ. Postal entries must be received by November 8.

If you experience prob-

lems voting, call our helpline: 0990 800 283. You cannot register your vote on this line. Vote lines close on November 9, 1997. Republic of Ireland number is 1550 123 302 (Tone phones only).

Calls should last no more than two mins. 50p per minute at all times. Calls from Republic of Ireland cost 58p per minute include VAT.

### The players

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM
001	David O'Leary	Ireland	176	Alan Hansen	Scotland	351	Manfred Mann	Germany	526	Manfred Mann	Germany
002	Klaus Schuster	Germany	177	Alan Hansen	Scotland	352	Manfred Mann	Germany	527	Manfred Mann	Germany
003	Manfred Mann	Germany	178	Alan Hansen	Scotland	353	Manfred Mann	Germany	528	Manfred Mann	Germany
004	Manfred Mann	Germany	179	Alan Hansen	Scotland	354	Manfred Mann	Germany	529	Manfred Mann	Germany
005	Manfred Mann	Germany	180	Alan Hansen	Scotland	355	Manfred Mann	Germany	530	Manfred Mann	Germany
006	Manfred Mann	Germany	181	Alan Hansen	Scotland	356	Manfred Mann	Germany	531	Manfred Mann	Germany
007	Manfred Mann	Germany	182	Alan Hansen	Scotland	357	Manfred Mann	Germany	532	Manfred Mann	Germany
008	Manfred Mann	Germany	183	Alan Hansen	Scotland	358	Manfred Mann	Germany	533	Manfred Mann	Germany
009	Manfred Mann	Germany	184	Alan Hansen	Scotland	359	Manfred Mann	Germany	534	Manfred Mann	Germany
010	Manfred Mann	Germany	185	Alan Hansen	Scotland	360	Manfred Mann	Germany	535	Manfred Mann	Germany
011	Manfred Mann	Germany	186	Alan Hansen	Scotland	361	Manfred Mann	Germany	536	Manfred Mann	Germany
012	Manfred Mann	Germany	187	Alan Hansen	Scotland	362	Manfred Mann	Germany	537	Manfred Mann	Germany
013	Manfred Mann	Germany	188	Alan Hansen	Scotland	363	Manfred Mann	Germany	538	Manfred Mann	Germany
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## Dissent has become football's most alarming problem

If recent events are anything to go by, footballers today consider themselves entitled to spit invective at a referee, harass him at his work and even condemn his performance publicly.

You only have to ponder this for an instant to infer what it implies: a game so out of touch with reality, so high on spurious attention that standards of behaviour on the field and respect for officialdom are no longer thought to be important. Relations between referees and players have always been subject to frequent emotional disturbance, but imagine the state of submission to which the authorities will be brought if they allow the present state of affairs to continue.

The true tone of sport in this era is set by the elite corps, the best of the professionals, the richest gamesters who are admiringly interviewed by sycophants and receive the same adoring space as rock stars.

This is particularly evident in football. Seldom confronted with the effect of their conduct on an upcoming generation, they become conditioned to believe that anything goes in the cause of collective and personal gain.

After a two-week break from this sporting life - at least as we know it in this country - it was no surprise to discover that things were pretty much as I had left them. Players and referees in conflict, cynical manipulation of the rules covering suspension and still no sign of effective legislation.

Following the dismissal last week of Arsenal's Emmanuel Petit for pushing referee Paul Durkin, things

came to a head when John Hartson questioned the integrity of the match official Mike Reed after West Ham lost at Leicester on Monday.

If I seem to be reacting in the veteran's standard fashion to the disappearance of decorum in sport, it is nevertheless true that many of the values that once existed have been lost to rampant commercialism. Seeing things in a different light is not an unfamiliar experience for footballers and their coaches, but it is time that they recognised the dangers in anarchy. Trouble is that the game's



KEN JONES

governing body, Fifa, remains muddled in its thinking. In its failure to set out clearly a charter for fair play, Fifa has allowed dissent to become football's most alarming problem.

According to Peter Willis, official spokesman for the Referees' Association, his members have been more tolerant this season than in good for them. "Too tolerant of things like foul tackles from behind, dissent, the use of foul language and not retiring 10 yards at a free-kick," he said this week. "It is time some players accepted their responsibilities... youngsters do copy what they see on television."

### CRICKET

## Reiffel signs deal with Northamptonshire





## Tests of the best facing captain Dallaglio

The new England captain Lawrence Dallaglio faces the toughest of rugby union baptisms: New Zealand (twice), South Africa and Australia, all before Christmas.

But, as David Lewellyn discovered yesterday, the new man is relishing the challenge.

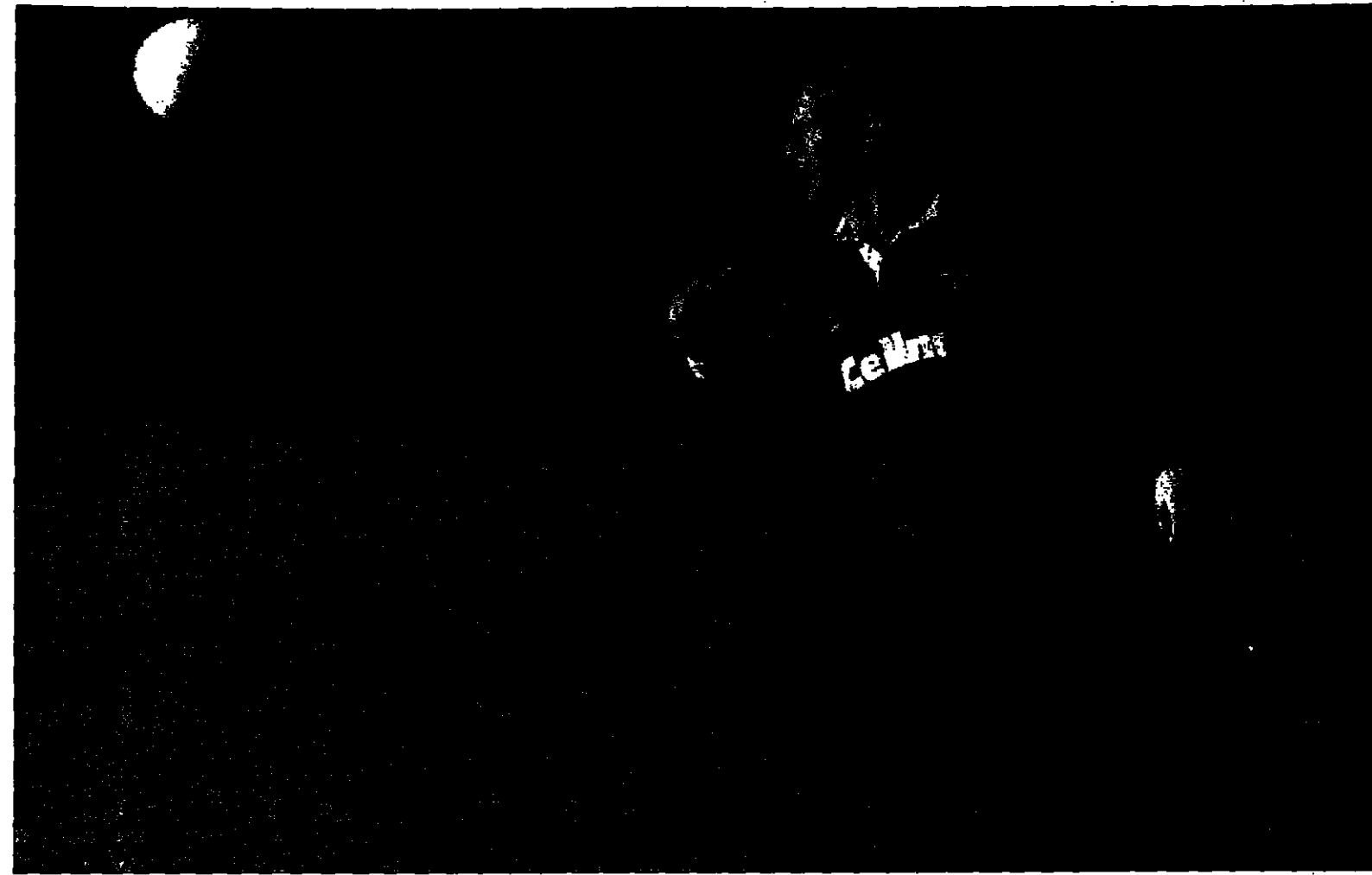
When he was 18, Lawrence Dallaglio played at No 8 for England Colts against their Italian counterparts at Cambridge University's Grange Road ground. His surname, courtesy of his father Vincenzo, naturally raised interest from the visitors. Questions were asked, suggestions were made and letters exchanged. Milan and Rovigo were prepared to take their interest further and Dallaglio was even offered a place at Milan University.

But the lure of London – and perhaps of Chelsea Football Club in particular – proved too strong. The blandishments were rejected and Dallaglio's decision to opt for the country of his birth rather than his family name has reaped its full reward with his appointment yesterday, at the age of 25, as the new England captain.

Clive Woodward, for one, has no doubt as to his qualification for the job. "He is right up there in world terms," the England coach said. "He would be in many people's World XV. He has been outstanding for England and for the Lions."

The prospect of facing the three giants of southern hemisphere rugby in the immediate future does not appear to bother him unduly. While it will be a trial of both his playing ability and his qualities of leadership, he takes a positive approach.

"We have to be capable of operating at that intensity," he said. "The aim is to defeat the three visitors now and win the World Cup. By the time we finish off this series of four Tests, we



New ball game: Lawrence Dallaglio displays his all-round skills on the day of his appointment as England's rugby union captain. Photograph: Peter Jay

will have a very clear idea of who can and who cannot operate at this level, because in the two New Zealand tests we are facing clearly the best in the world.

"That is the purpose of these matches. The raw material is there and my role is to harness the talent within the team. Certainly the players are animated about competing with the top countries and we are not even thinking about the Five Nations' Championship in the New Year."

Nor does he seem bothered by the prospect of the high profile he will now have off the field. "I think rugby in general is changing," he said from the middle of the media scrum

that will now poke and pry into every corner of his life. "Since the advent of professionalism the profile of the game has increased, and that of England has grown accordingly. But I am happy to take on whatever the role demands."

There is little doubt that Dallaglio will cope. Two years ago he took over the captaincy of Wasps after Rob Andrew had enticed the then club captain, Dean Ryan, to join him at Newcastle.

A number of experienced players followed the lucrative trail to the North-east as Sir John Hall began to build his rugby side, leaving a lot of raw youngsters and the 23-year-

old Dallaglio to pick up the pieces. Sudbury was in disarray in October 1995, yet 19 months later Dallaglio led Wasps to the Courage League Championship – an extraordinary achievement.

Roger Uttley, the England manager and a former Wasp, saw Dallaglio's influence at first hand, and was – with Woodward – responsible for Dallaglio's appointment to the England post. Recalling the troubled period at Wasps, he said: "The way he went on to grip things was remarkable for one so inexperienced. He has a great personal belief in his own ability to do a job and is able to communicate that intensity of purpose."

"When he walks into a room you are immediately aware of him and you sit up and take notice. Other people can walk through a door and nothing changes, but with him you are aware of a presence. He stands out as a leader of men. He has something which makes others prepared to follow him."

Phil de Glanville, Dallaglio's predecessor, said: "He is a great player and a strong character, but he has not got an easy start. It really is a baptism of fire. But it would be pretty harsh if he were to be axed were England not to do all that well in these pre-Christmas internationals. Thankfully he has

inherited a settled squad, the organisation behind him is good. That will help."

De Glanville had no doubt about Dallaglio's style of leadership. "He will lead from the front. He is very direct and whereas Martin Johnson might have been a little quiet, Lawrence will be more vocal."

Dallaglio certainly displays an appetite for the job. "I enjoy captaincy," he said. "Not everyone wants to be captain, but I am pleased to have been given the opportunity. But I would not say I have been looking for the job since Will Carling jumped or was pushed or whatever, but I am delighted to have been given the opportunity."

## Fitness and form the concern for Woodward

The England coach, Clive Woodward, yesterday confessed to being worried as the first of England's four demanding Tests looms against Australia at Twickenham on 15 November. A casualty list of around half a dozen players is only a part of the problem.

"I would be lying if I said I wasn't worried," said Woodward as his 28-strong squad gathered for their final mid-week training session at Bath Abbey yesterday. "We have eight key players injured at the moment. It is not a case of me whingeing. Added to that there is a genuine lack of depth in certain positions."

There is a problem on both wings, with Adedayo Adebayo injured and Woodward seeing no obvious candidate on the right. He also listed stand-off, full-back and tight-head prop as areas of concern, while he is also known to be worried by the position of hooker, where the incumbent Mark Regan and his rival Phil Greening have been struggling to get into their respective first teams at Bristol and Gloucester. Indeed Greening may be dropped for his side's Allied Dunbar Premiership match against Harlequins at Kingsholm on Sunday.

The front row specialist Phil Keith-Roach spent much of the morning working hard with the England men yesterday and looking closely at their techniques.

When the full squad went out for the afternoon session the promising young stand-off Alex King was among those sitting it out, but he expects to be fit for Wasps' European Cup quarter-final against Brive or Pontypridd in 10 days' time. However, for Woodward it is an anxious time. "I just hope I have 36 fit players by Monday 10 November," he said.

That is the squad from which he will select the sides to play Australia and the three England A games against the

All Blacks in a period when there will be seven rigorous representative matches in the space of four weeks. "It will be like being on tour," Woodward added.

The organisers of the Heineken Cup have confirmed that Bath's quarter-final tie with either Llanelli or Cardiff will be played on Saturday 8 November. European Rugby Cup Ltd came to the decision after talks with the Welsh Rugby Union and Llanelli, who are set to play the All Blacks on the same date.

The fixtures will clash if Llanelli beat Cardiff in their quarter-final play-off at the Arms Park on Saturday. But ERC Ltd has insisted whatever the outcome of the WRU's efforts to find a solution, Bath's match at the Recreation Ground will go ahead.

Brive's Argentinian international centre, Lisandro Arbizu, will miss their Heineken Cup quarter-final play-off against Pontypridd on Saturday. He is required by Argentina this weekend for the Test against Australia in Buenos Aires. His absence has prompted the Brive coach, Laurent Seigne, into shuffling the midfield, bringing the French international wing David Venditti with the centre Christophe Lamaison.

The Scotland scrum-half Bryan Redpath returns to the Scottish Borders side for their match against New South Wales at the Greenyards on Sunday. Redpath has been out of action since suffering a shoulder injury in Borders' European tie against Brive earlier this month.

Two more unnamed potential backers have come forward as potential saviours of debt-ridden Bristol. The board of directors met on Tuesday night to consider a number of options and they will now discuss two of them with their financial advisers over the next few days.

# MARCO POLO.

## OPEN THE

Channel 4, Sunday 2nd November at 7.57pm.

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## Farrell can emerge as the back of all trades

The Wigan forward will abandon his place in the pack and become the playmaker at stand-off for Saturday's first rugby league Test against Australia. It is a switch beyond the capabilities of most players, but, as Dave Hadfield hears, Andy Farrell is no ordinary player.

The apparently desperate ploy of playing a forward at stand-off can work for Great Britain in the British Gas Test series, according to the last man to be asked to make that switch.

Phil Clarke was drafted from the pack to try to keep the Australian pivot, Laurie Daley, quiet in the third Test in 1994, just as Andy Farrell is likely to be – whatever the number on his back – for all or part of the series opener at Wembley this Saturday. But there, Clarke says, any similarity instantly ends.

"When I was moved to stand-off for the decider at Elland Road three years ago, it was a purely defensive move. I was no Laurie Daley and all we were hoping for was that I might be able to tackle him and put him off his game," he recalls.

The then Great Britain coach, Ellery Hanley, was almost at the point of calling for volunteers when he asked Clarke to take on a role he had played only rarely as a junior, rather than start with a spe-



Andy Farrell is ready to play whatever role Great Britain want in Saturday's first Test. Photograph: David Ashdown

cialist, Garry Schofield, in the position.

"It was a negative tactic – all to do with keeping Laurie quiet – and we were never going to score many points with me there."

As it turned out, Hanley never found out whether his experiment would have worked. An accident in a tackle damaged Clarke's ankle ligaments after only 10 minutes and he limped off after 23 – to be replaced by the frustrated Schofield. Even without Clarke's defensive starch, Britain held Australia for almost an hour, before the Kangaroos drew away to win the Test – and the series – 23-4.

"There is a huge difference between the two situations," says Clarke now that another Wigan loose-forward is being lined up for a similar change of

roles. "Andy Farrell is a very, very gifted rugby league player; I was just a trier."

Clarke, prematurely forced into retirement through a neck injury and now based in Australia as a partner in a travel firm, as well as summarising for Sky television during his series, does his own considerable abilities less than full justice. But there is some truth in the distinction he draws.

Like the rest of the Wigan players of his generation, Clarke looked on in some amazement when Farrell, four years his junior, broke into first team rugby at 17, already with the full range of skills at his disposal.

Farrell, despite his towering size, had played plenty of his early rugby at stand-off and, throughout his career, he has acted as a playmaker. Moving

him back there would not be a sign of panic, but merely a recognition that, wherever he plays his club rugby, he is the best man for the job.

Great Britain had one highly-skilled stand-off in their squad in Iestyn Harris, but even if he had not pulled out with a back injury, his link with Bobbie Goulding on tour last year did not exactly blossom and there had to be some question mark over his ability to match it physically with Daley, the Australian captain who is now an even more formidable proposition than he was three years ago.

There is a danger of asking Farrell to do too much – as Wigan have been guilty of all year. As captain, main organiser in attack and defence, tactical kicker and – in all probability – goal-kicker, he already has enough on his plate without squaring up directly to Australia's main threat and carrying prime responsibility for getting Britain's back-line moving.

It would be too much for an ordinary player. But, as Clarke noticed as soon as the imposing newcomer arrived at Central Park, Farrell has never been that. He knows from experience how tough it can be to try to play out of character, but his successor is a different case entirely.

"There is just no comparison between me and Andy Farrell. He has so much skill and rugby ability that I don't think you could ever go far wrong wherever you played him."

## Resignation opens way for Whelan takeover at Wigan

The Wigan Athletic chairman, Dave Whelan, is expected to win his battle for the control of the town's rugby league club with the announcement of a takeover today.

Whelan, a former sponsor of the club, has been locked in an acrimonious clash of personalities with the former chairman, Jack Robinson, and his successor, Arthur Thomas.

But Thomas has now resigned, reportedly selling his shares to John Martyn, a

former Wigan director and close ally of Whelan.

The immediate consequence of a Whelan takeover is that Wigan will move in with the football club at the new stadium. Whelan is having built in the town. Wigan have sold their Central Park ground for super-market development and have a loose arrangement to move in with Bolton Wanderers at their new stadium, something which has proved enormously unpopular with supporters.

Another likely effect of a change of ownership could be that John Monie, a hugely successful Wigan coach until he left for Auckland in 1993, could be set for a return. Monie is keen to come back to coach in England and has been mooted as the name Whelan would like to bring in to restore Wigan's position of supremacy in the British game.

Bradley Clyde is out of Australia's team to face Great Britain at Wembley on Satur-

day, after deciding not to risk a calf injury. Clyde is confident of being fit for the second Test at Old Trafford a week later. The Brisbane forward Gordon Tallis, is lined up as his replacement.

Bradford are poised to complete the signing of Tevita Vaikona from Hull after the Rugby League ruled yesterday that they had acted correctly in signing him, despite an internal row over the deal at Hull.

— Dave Hadfield





## FOOTBALL: WORLD CUP



Italy's Fabrizio Ravanelli tries to thread his way through the Russian defence during yesterday's World Cup qualifying play-off first leg in Moscow

Photograph: David Brauch/AP

## Vieri makes history while calming Italy's nerves

Russia ..... 1  
Italy ..... 1

Christian Vieri became the first Italian to score for his country in Russia last night as his side secured a confidence-boosting draw from the first leg of their World Cup play-off in Moscow.

The Real Madrid striker scored with a fine solo effort in

the 49th minute, and though the lead lasted barely two minutes before it was cancelled out by an own goal from Fabio Cannavaro, the Italians will return confident that they have the advantage. With away goals counting double they need only a goalless draw in the second leg in Naples on 15 November to qualify for next summer's finals in France.

Italy have won the World

Cup three times, but had been consigned to the play-offs after finishing behind England in their qualifying group. Failure against Russia would mean Italy missing out on the finals for the first time in 40 years.

Vieri pounced on a long through ball from Demetrio Albertini and, as the Russian defender Aleksandr Tsvetkov slipped on the snowy pitch, he steered the ball past the goalkeeper Sergei

Ovchinnikov. Italy had played the Soviet Union in Moscow three times since 1963 and had never scored. The Russian response was swift though Cannavaro's own goal, coming after a scramble on the goal line following a cross from the right.

A goalless first half saw both teams finding ball control difficult on an icy night at the Dynamo stadium, where the playing surface was bumpy and

slippery. Russia's former Everton winger, Andrei Kanchelskis, caused some early concern among the Italian defence, but the 1994 runners-up grew in confidence as they became accustomed to the unfamiliar conditions.

The muscular Vieri was a menace to the Russians, his skill in the air setting up a 14th-minute opportunity for the recalled Fabrizio Ravanelli, only

for the former Middlesbrough striker to shoot well wide.

Eight minutes later Ovchinnikov had to move smartly off his line as the Italians again threatened. But it was a half in which clear cut chances were at a premium.

The Italians lost their goalkeeper, Gianluca Pagliuca, with a leg injury after a clumsy challenge by Kanchelskis two-thirds of the way through

the first half and he was replaced by the inexperienced Gianluigi Buffon.

However, the Parma keeper distinguished himself with a fine diving save from a shot by Sergei Alenichev in the dying minutes of the period. The Russians also lost a key player before the break when their defensive linchpin, Viktor Onopko, doubtful before the start, had to be replaced.

## RUGBY UNION

### Dallaglio handed the captaincy

Lawrence Dallaglio was yesterday appointed as the captain of England less than two years after winning the first of his 12 caps. His selection was something of a surprise with many expecting the role to be given to Martin Johnson, who captained the Lions to victory in South Africa in the summer.

The England coach, Clive Woodward, and manager, Roger Utley, deliberated long and hard before Dallaglio, the captain of Wasps, was told of their decision on Monday.

Dallaglio, 25, has been appointed "for the foreseeable future", but could not be given a more fearsome introduction to the high-profile job: four Tests in as many weeks against Australia, New Zealand (twice) and South Africa. The first will be against Australia on 15 November.

"Lawrence is the man to take things forward," Woodward said. "He will have a say in selection; I would not want Lawrence to take out a team unless he is 100 per cent happy with it."

The 6ft 4in Dallaglio succeeds Phil de Glanville, who was in charge for just eight matches in his year-long tenure. De Glanville had taken over from Will Carling, the captain for nine years from 1988 to 1996 in which time he led England on 59 occasions.

Woodward and Utley did not commit themselves to having Dallaglio as their captain in the long term, though, form and fitness permitting there is nothing to stop him going all the way to the World Cup in 1999.

But Woodward said: "Lawrence will be picked on form as a player and as a captain and if I think we need a change then in Martin Johnson we have a ready-made replacement."

"I admired Geoff Cooke for appointing Will Carling initially for four years. I would like to think I would have had the bottle to do the same. But times have changed."

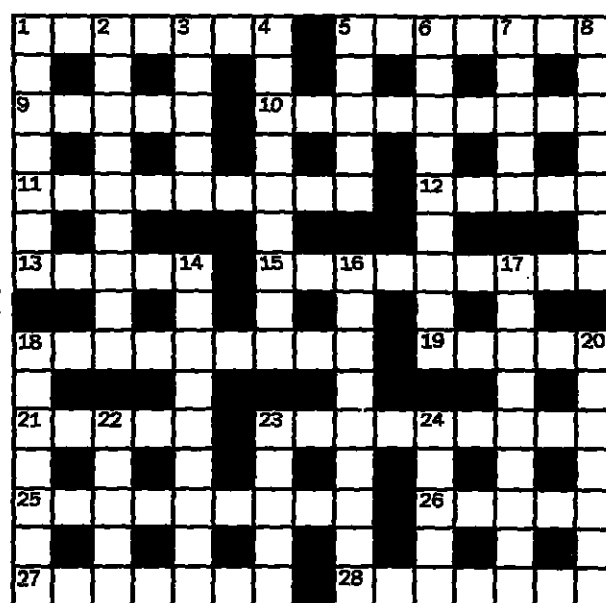
— David Llewellyn  
Tests of the best,  
news, page 30

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 3443, Thursday 30 October

By Sporliss

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Keeping quiet about arrival, on reflection a mistake (7)
  - String ensemble from Alexandria? (7)
  - Beat poet? (5)
  - Pay back rupee, Burmese one, possibly (9)
  - Smart article covered in gold to begin with? Not so (9)
  - Repel savage brute (5)
  - Give up fruit (5)
  - On paper, initially, university syllabus is well-respected (9)
  - Solicitor sails south with little hesitation (9)
  - A disadvantage being married, in America? (5)
  - Natural swimmer accepting new technology? (5)
  - Oil exploration company's angle on marine life forms (9)

- Over in the Spanish bar is a journalist, rather attractive (9)
- Speech affected? Doctor will need pointed instrument (5)
- A medical setback - run, please run (7)
- Man with franchise given top job in Hanover? (7)

### DOWN

- Agreeable noises from European Union not genuine? (7)
- How hunger could make you crude (5-4)
- House originally Welsh, often mocked in England? (5)
- After mass, northern French town's about to enjoy carnival (5-4)
- First person taking Religious Education holds up question papers (5)

- Where the trunks are labelled in Latin? (9)
- Pound for bathrobe (reduced) (5)
- Gown worn here in the Sheldonian, for instance? (7)
- Tread path warily - it's a dangerous place (5-4)
- Don't give up always appearing in blue (9)
- Deliciously stuffed liver you get in France? (3-6)
- English doctor relocating in Burgundy area (4-3)
- Central heating powered by the sun externally? It's academic (7)
- Starts to need alternative signalling apparatus - lack of hooters? (5)
- Demand bishop must appear in fur coat (5)
- Deposit for house (5)

## Bilic puts Croatia on way

Croatia ..... 2  
Ukraine ..... 0

A goal in each half steered Croatia closer to a debut in the World Cup as they cruised past Ukraine in Zagreb yesterday.

The Everton defender Slaven Bilic put the Croats ahead in the 11th minute with a powerful header, and Goran Vlaovic added the second in the 49th with a skilful solo effort. The Croats justified their role as the favourites from the outset, dictating the tempo and throwing the Ukraine defence into disarray with a flurry of early attacks.

"Our approach was to force them to crack early, to break them and not allow them time or space," said the Croatian coach, Miroslav Blazevic.

The strategy paid off. Bilic

capitalised on the vulnerable defence when he climbed high, unmarked, to connect perfectly with a floated cross.

Ukraine battled valiantly in the midfield but failed to mount an attack that seriously threatened Croatia's goal. The only real opportunity came in the 30th minute during a goal-mouth scramble that was cleared from the line.

Croatia penetrated with short passes and through balls down the flanks. Milan's Zvonimir Boban shot a fierce drive inches wide of the post and Goran Vlaovic sent a golden opportunity sailing over the crossbar.

Vlaovic atoned for his miss just after the break when he took the ball outside the box and had one man to beat. He swivelled left, then right, to make room before hammering

the ball high into the Ukraine net.

Although Croatia will be without their captain, Boban, and Bilic in the return leg through one-match suspensions, Blazevic was confident. "This was one of our best matches, considering its importance. I think the two goals will be cushion enough to guarantee advancement," he said.

Still fledglings in terms of international football, Ukraine and Croatia have never played in a World Cup. The return leg will be played in Kiev in two weeks' time, most likely before some 100,000 screaming home fans and in sub-zero temperatures.

Croatia's leading scorer, Zvonimir Boban (47), started (Austroic, 59, Santic, Vlaovic (Dmitrovic, 88, Santic, Juric, Ukraine: Shovkovsky, Ornyutin, Skrypnik, Kovalev, Vashchuk, Gush, Maximov (Hetsko 88, Nishchynsk (Zukov 88, Kosovskiy, Aulin (Mykhailenko, 88), Petrov.

## Call for ban on players' bets

A leading spread betting organisation said yesterday it would welcome any plans by the Football Association to ban players from betting on matches.

The FA is about to publish a report which is believed to recommend a ban on gambling by footballers.

It follows unsupported allegations of a spread bet last season on the time of the first throw-in during a Premiership match.

Paul Anstin, the director of

communications for City Index, said: "We would welcome any such ban because footballers shouldn't be allowed to bet on football at all."

"Our business is regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority, and no footballer can open an account with us and bet on football. They can open an account and bet on golf or horse-racing for example."

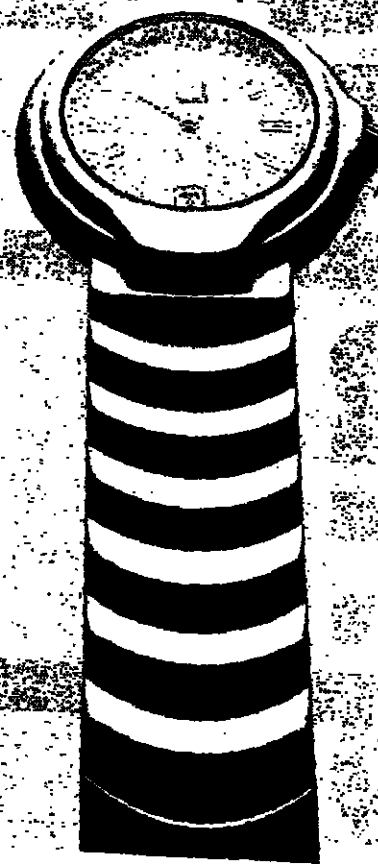
"We are in control of every bet, because they are all placed over the telephone and we

know every one of our account holders."

Austin said City Index were not one of the three companies which took bets on the throw-in during the match in question. He said: "The single biggest winning bet was £1,000 and the three companies combined lost a total of £600, so it is unlikely that any footballers bet on it to make a quick killing."

A spokesman for Ladbrokes said the company was waiting for the FA's report to be published before commenting.

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